

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force
Minutes of August 29, 2023 meeting

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, via audio/video teleconference as noted on the agenda.

Present: Leigh Davis, Andy Didio, Cindy Schoenfeld, Christine Ward

Members absent: Dale Abrams, Bill Meier, Brandee Nelson

Also present: Chris Rembold, Assistant Town Manager / Director of Planning & Community Development

Rembold served as Chair for this meeting.

Administrative Business

Rembold said the July minutes were not yet ready for action. The minutes were tabled until next meeting.

Lake Mansfield Comprehensive Project:

Rembold said the construction invitation for bids has been issued. He said all funds are secured and there will be an announcement soon. He said construction is likely to begin in November and the contract will require a substantial completion date for the end of June 2024, to allow for summer recreation. So the road will likely close in November.

Rembold said the invitation for bids also includes an alternate to install a power pole in the parking lot for security cameras and/or limited parking lot lighting. Those details can be determined by the Task Force at a later date.

Rembold asked all members to update their committees and boards about the schedule.

Updates & Areas of Concern for discussion

- a. Roadside mowing. Rembold said the DPW asked him to make sure the roadside mowing guidelines were still current. Rembold said the guidelines were developed when the road was two-way traffic, and the roadside weeds had to be cut back often in order to maintain sight distance. Rembold thought these might need to be revised for future, since vehicular traffic will not be an issue. Schoenfeld suggested revised maintenance guidelines also include maintenance for the rain gardens near the parking lot. The Task Force agreed to revisit and discuss again at a future meeting.

- b. Kayak racks. Rembold said he was asked about a kayak rack near the boat launch, and the Parks Commission was also asked about this type of facility. Schoenfeld thought this would be a good idea. She ask of there would be a fee, sign ups, and locks. Rembold did not know.

Ward raised a concern that there might not be enough space for such a facility. She said we do not know what space it would need, or how it would impact other users; we would have to have a site plan and some specifics in front of us.

- c. Landscaping. Rembold said these details are in the bid that was just issued.
- d. Weeds. Rembold said he discussed the aquatic weeds control with the Conservation Commission Agent, who said that mowing of aquatic weeds is not a preferred alternative according the Commission and the DEP. This is primarily because mowing is indiscriminate; everything gets chopped up even the good weeds, and it can actually spread weeds around.

Ward suggested a point paper about this, in support of biological control and our efforts to control runoff, be issued this winter. She thought a weed mat near the boat launch could be considered, similar to the one at the beach.

- e. Phragmites. Didio said he mentioned this to the Conservation Commission. A plan should be presented. Rembold suggested Didio and the Conservation Agent follow it up.
- f. Water chestnut. No discussion.
- g. Lake Mansfield Alliance. Ward said parts of the trails have been washed out near Christian Hill, and the bridge-boardwalk needs some attention. Those will be fall and winter projects for the Land Conservancy. Ward said a snapping turtle that was injured was recently rehabilitated and returned to the lake.

Rembold reminded folks that the work the Land Conservancy does in the lake and forest helps the Town tremendously. He thanked them for all the volunteer work, and the educational and stewardship work that they do. It helps the Town greatly.

Ward added they are working with a donor and the DPW to install a sitting bench near the boat launch this fall.

Citizens Speak: None

Adjourn: the meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM

Next Meeting: Community meeting to be October 5, via Zoom

Minutes prepared by:


Christopher Rembold