

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force
Minutes of November 21, 2023 meeting

This meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM, via Zoom as noted on the agenda.

Present: Dale Abrams, Andy Didio, Cindy Schoenfeld, Christine Ward

Members absent: Leigh Davis, 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

On a motion by Abrams and seconded by Schoenfeld, the minutes for both August 29 and July 18, 2023 were unanimously approved by roll call vote, 4-0.

Lake Mansfield Comprehensive Project:

Rembold said construction has begun with clearing of trees to enlarge the parking area. He said he does not yet have a task-by-task schedule but will forward that as soon as he has one. It has been a fast start and the contractor is making good progress so far.

Ward said she was able to meet on site with Town's the Conservation Agent, Shep Evans, and the wetland scientist hired to oversee the work. She said that the scientist is interested in seeing our plant inventory that Abrams put together. Ward said that Evans description of the work was very clear, and it was also clear that he is looking for this work to be a stellar example of such a large wetland area project.

Abrams asked about the replanting plan. He asked if the contractor will be removing plants and replacing them, or removing them and starting from scratch. He said removing native plants temporarily and then putting them back in would give the replanting a major head start, especially for the north end area.

Ward has some concerns about trees that were planted by the garden club in the beach area. One was removed unfortunately, and the root zone of the maple near the parking lot needs to be better protected.

Ward said the kiosks, one in the beach area and one at the trailhead, were removed. She didn't realize that would happen. She asked that we be clear about what will be removed and where they will be reinstalled. Rembold suggested it would be great if the land conservancy could help with the reinstallation of the kiosks, including selecting their new locations. That would be later in the spring. Ward suggested the signage could include descriptions of the work, the grants we received, and the benefits of the project.

There was a discussion about the construction of the trails in the park space. Ward said she would provide details of the type of materials her crews has used. She said a fabric underneath the crushed stone surface is a must. She said they have not used steel edging before, so she wondered if that was right for this space. In this area there is a lot of water, and water might not be able move through the edging. She said darker stone color is better than lighter stone. Abrams said in areas where there is sun, like here in the park, the edging can keep the grass from growing in and taking over the trail. Didio said it keeps the grass roots from the surrounding area from creeping in. He thought if there was no edging you might need herbicide eventually. He also mentioned sometimes a stabilizing agent is sprayed onto the stone to keep it compacted and keep it from washing away.

Rembold said they are working on installing a power pole in the space to be able to use security cameras. He said the plan now is to replace the phone pole near the beach, and to add another pole up near the

relocated shed or the portapotties. The wires would be in underground conduits, not overhead. Schoenfeld thought the parking area needs monitoring. Abrams said the same. Ward said people hang out more in the parking area and that is the trouble area. Abrams said if there are lights, which he doesn't want, they should be limited and near the parking area, not the beach. Schoenfeld thought it would make sense near the lifeguard shed. Didio thought using motion sensor would be a good option, so lights are not on all the time.

There was discussion about pedestrian vs. bike safety. Rembold said there have been concerns expressed by path walkers that bicycles are so quiet and they overtake pedestrians without warning, and without yielding to pedestrians. Member suggested yield to pedestrian signs, and, near the outlet, one-lane road yield signs. Members also suggested new welcome signage, at the north and south end, informing users to pay attention and make way for pedestrians.

Ward gave credit to Abrams for improvements at the boat launch area. A new bench was installed there, the sign and trash cans were moved aside, and the area will be regraded and replanted. Ward said their volunteers are motivated and doing great work in area parks and trails. She said the land conservancy will have updated on their website www.gbland.org.

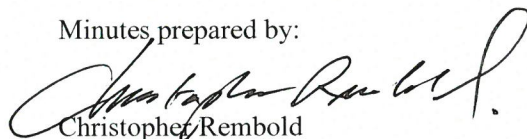
There was brief discussion of an idea for kayak racks. Rembold thought there was not much space at the boat launch area. Schoenfeld said can be thought about this once all the work is done. Abrams said we can reassess then. He said it does not seem like wise use of limited public space.

Joe Aberdale, DPW Superintendent, mentioned that the Parks Commissions discussed needing no fishing signs near the beach. He said they also asked him to find out about a swimming platform. Members thought the platform might present lifeguarding challenges, and might not be a good addition to such a small lake.

Citizens Speak: None

Adjourn: Abrams moved to adjourn, Didio seconded.
Without objection the meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM

Minutes prepared by:



Christopher Rembold