

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force
Minutes of March 26, 2024 meeting

This meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM

Present: Dale Abrams, Leigh Davis, Brandee Nelson, Cindy Schoenfeld, and Christine Ward
Members absent: Bill Meier. Andy Didio joined late.

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

Schoenfeld volunteered to Chair this meeting.

Administrative Business

On a motion by Davis, seconded by Ward, the minutes for January 30, 2024 were unanimously approved by roll call vote, 5-0.

Lake Mansfield Comprehensive Project:

Rembold gave a schedule update, saying the contractors will restart in April and are hoping to finish almost all of the work by the end of June. He said he, along with Ward and Abrams, met on site earlier in March with the town's Engineer and the Contractor to review areas where existing bank vegetation could be preserved or relocated. The objective was to determine how to minimize disruption of the bank while ensuring proper under-road drainage.

Rembold discussed the community liaison contract. He said part of the second MVP grant had a line item for community outreach, and we've made a preliminary selection of a consultant for this work. The team we selected has really deep connections in the community. We are hoping that they will help us communicate the goals and results, and also to lay the groundwork for continued town interaction with the community, particularly people in the community who we don't usually interact with people who may be low income, non-English speaking, etc. He said this community liaison team will help us make those connections, and help us better participate in what the community is doing and help the community better participate in what we're doing. He said hopefully, the program will grow and be more than just like Mansfield.

Nelson said she hopes there will be some sort of opportunity for interpretive communications along the lake edge, related to the various efforts that have been implemented, the things that are underground, that we don't see, and the things that are at the surface that we do see. She said this is an opportunity for two-way engagement.

Ward gave an update from the Land Conservancy. She said last year GBLC expended nearly \$20,000 on their work at Lake Mansfield. This does not include the value of many volunteer hours dedicated to caring for the recreation area and habitat including the Conservation Forest Trails. Their projected budget for Lake Mansfield for 2024 is \$35,000 with habitat support, kiosks, trails maintenance and repair and programming all on the list of goals to accomplish. She said the GBLC met with Bridghe McCracken, Helia Land Native Nursery to plan ways to collaborate with them under there [Carbon Offset Initiative](#). Bridghe grew up beside Lake Mansfield and is eager to help reestablish a healthy vibrant lakeside habitat. We expect this work to be a multiyear effort engaging volunteers. She said the GBLC newsletter is in the process of being created and will be distributed in April.

Abrams mentioned that we should check in with Didio and Meier next month about phragmites control. Nelson added that after construction we should be vigilant in terms of invasive plants like phragmites which can take over disturbed areas very quickly.

Ward had some ideas related to this. She mentioned guided walks and guided paddling opportunities to educate people about invasive plants.

There was more discussion about invasive weeds, including milfoil in the lake. Abrams said in the deeper areas, in the middle, it is 15 or 16 feet deep - too deep for weeds and so the swimming is very good. He said getting there is usually ok, except for a period in August with heavy vegetation. He said the shallow areas at the edges where there are weeds are fish and turtle habitat that benefits from vegetation. He said reports have shown less weevil activity and thus less weed control, and we should consider that again methods again.


Ward asked that next meeting also include a discussion of the park and beach area, including where benches should be placed, which ones should be replaced, and how many should be there.

Next meeting: April 30, 8:30 AM

Citizens Speak: None

Adjourn: Hearing no further business, Ward adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:35 AM

Minutes prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Rembold', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Rembold