

Lake Mansfield Improvement Task Force
Minutes of Monday, February 12, 2018 meeting

Present: Dale Abrams (Lake Mansfield Alliance), Bill Cooke (Selectboard), Peter Franck (Citizen at large), Ilana Siegal (Parks Commission)

Absent: Gaetan Lachance (Conservation Commission), Brandee Nelson (Planning Board), Christine Ward (Citizen at large).

Staff Present: Chris Rembold, and Sean Van Deusen

Acting Chairperson Siegal called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM at Town Hall.

1. Administrative Business

Cooke moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2017, Abrams seconded, all were in favor.

2. Updates from Task Force representatives

Van Deusen said that at some point soon they will need to pave the road, at least some small sections, around the lake. He said the potholes and crumbling asphalt are going right into the lake which is bad for the water. It would be a short term fix until the larger issue is decided but this would be better for the water quality in the short term. There were comments agreeing with the need, asking about costs, and whether speed control measures could be added in the short term.

Siegal gave the usage report for the beach area. She said average usage in summer of 2017 was 192 people per day, and the peak was almost 400 people on the busiest Sunday. She said the busiest time is after 3:00, so the Parks Comm. will explore having lifeguards arrive later, and stay later, in the day in order to cover that busy late afternoon period.

3. Lake Mansfield Improvement Planning

A. i. Knob Hill Road: Rembold said engineering is beginning for this and will present final designs to the task force. He said they are looking to do the construction would be in late 2018.

ii. Boat Launch: Rembold said he does not have an updated schedule for this construction work. It was noted that handicapped access is a goal for the launch area.

iii. Forest Trails: nothing new to report

B. Lake Mansfield Road engineering project

Outlet: Scott Madeiros of Woodard & Curran (W&C) presented the plans for the outlet ("February Progress Set – Preliminary Design"). He said they have reviewed conceptual plans with Mass DER and Mass DEP. He said initial plans were to have a structure that could allow for drawdowns. He said that downstream grades made permitting difficult and costs high because they would involve a great deal of alteration of wetland areas. DEP's initial comments, provided to the Task Force via email, indicated that a drawdown structure would be difficult to permit because of the Lake's status as a Great Pond under state law. So the current plans are to have an open culvert larger than the pipe that is there now, but at about the same water level. He said the road level would be raised several inches at least, in order to accommodate the larger culvert and to ensure that rain does not pool on top of the road any more.

There was a question about whether guardrails would be needed if the road is raised. This would impact aesthetics as well as cause cars and pedestrians to be squeezed into a smaller space.

It was decided that W&C should continue the design process along the current course, but there is still a desire to have a structure capable of lake drawdowns built if possible. The permitting of the drawdown event could happen later.

Road: Madeiros reviewed the road plans and cross sections provided ("February Progress Set – Preliminary Design"). The cross sections at various points along the road, including the outlet, pool club driveway, and whale rock area, show where the road is situated within the right of way. The plans show a conceptual 18 foot wide paved area – it might be two-way, one-way, or other combination to be decided later – and how it impacts the wetlands, lake edge, and right of way boundaries.

Members asked that wetlands be shown on the cross sections. There was a comment that the buried power lines near the beach parking lot area be shown on the plans; Madeiros said they will have to be located by the future construction contractor via dig safe, but W&C will note the lines are there.

It was mentioned that the Town should begin discussions with land owners whose property abuts the road and that is impacted by the road.

More refined plans will be presented next month.

4. Citizen's Speak Time

Mr. Guerrero said there is a lot of ponding on the road at the outlet area, when it rains. He said it's a good idea to bring the road up and fix that issue. He also said he disagreed with paving and thought gravel should be used instead. Van Deusen said that is not a recommended approach since the gravel will wash in to the lake as well, and winter maintenance would be more difficult and would require more salt.

5. The next meeting will be Monday, March 12, 2018 at 8:30AM. Cooke volunteered to chair.

6. Seigal adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM

Minutes prepared by:

