

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Annual Meeting

MINUTES

May 18, 2019 10:00 A.M.

The Douglas Library of Hebron, 22 Main Street, Hebron, CT 06248

www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, A. Stec, B. Lederer, M. Dagon, N. Nurge, T. LaMontagne present.

The meeting included a slide presentation which is available on the website.

C. Introduction of Board of Directors:

President F. Hoisl introduced the current directors and thanked them for their service on the Board and to the community.

D. Acknowledgements:

F. Hoisl recognized the many volunteers who served the community this past year. He gave special thanks to the committees – Finance, Lake Health, Lebanon Roads, Beaches and ROWs, and the Dry Hydrant Committees.

Laurel Hennebury, 458 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

Q: She'd like to suggest a new committee to look into the feasibility of hiring a lake manager. **A:** By a show of hands it appeared that the residents were interested in forming a committee. The BOD will create a charter for the committee before moving forward.

E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

B. Pelegano made a motion to approve the May 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by N. Nurge, unanimously approved.

F. Review Lake Operations:

F. Hoisl reviewed the slides, highlighting the work that was done over the past year.

G. Committees:

F. Hoisl, Lake Health Committee chair, reviewed the committee's activities since its formation last fall. Highlights included: a bathymetric survey of the lake, as it had not been done in quite a while, and contracting with Aquatic Ecosystem Research (AER), a freshwater conservation company. Volunteers will be taking water samples at 13 locations around the lake for 7 months, working with DEEP to conduct an electrofishing survey, continuing the bass tagging program to help measure the health of the bass in the lake, and working with the Town of Lebanon to identify and clean out the catch basins. Future projects include: evaluating areas that would benefit from plunge pools and/or vortech units, holding District education sessions, more deepwater testing,

and better engagement with the towns regarding storm drains.

M. Dagon, chairperson of the Beaches & ROWs Committee, highlighted their work which has been helped by assigning stewards to each beach and ROW. Last year's projects included: tree removals, repairs to Elsmere and Oakland ROWs, and removal of the prickly Barberry bushes at Main Beach. The committee has contracted for two new boat racks – one for Hebron, one for Lebanon, and will also be purchasing a new volleyball net for Main beach.

Brett Harlow, 403 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

He stated that the drain at Oakland ROW should have been installed deeper, and the rocks that were installed are not attractive.

Janet Atkins, 9 Francis Rd, Amston

Q: Is there any consideration being given to the number of boat racks that are being built? **A:** There has been a great demand so we have budgeted for two. Each rack at every ROW was overflowing so the committee is trying to stay ahead of it. They are also looking to do a design that accommodates paddle boats, as they tend to fill up with water.

Charlene Reagan, 6 Wood Acres Rd, Amston

Q: Is this the committee to get approval for dogs to go on the ROWs? **A:** You can bring the idea to this committee, but it will be a Board decision.

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

She suggested that the committee look at Spafford ROW, as it has had erosion from a recent storm.

Sue Matyszyk, 12 Rondaly Rd, Amston

Regarding using a ROW for dogs – it doesn't have to be one of the beaches, just a place to bring the dogs to the water. It would be good to start a discussion.

Laurel Hennebury, 458 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

She suggested that perhaps specific times for the dogs could be set aside at all ROWs.

Carol Glennie, 13 Oakland Rd, Amston

She agreed with the previous commenters and although she doesn't want to disrupt anyone, she thinks it would be nice to have a place for the dogs.

F. Hoisl gave an update on the repairs to Ryan Terrace ROW: the Lebanon Inland Wetlands Commission required us to provide a survey and an engineered design with our application, which will be submitted in time for the June IWC meeting. Once approved, the District will hold a special District meeting over the summer to share the plan and costs for a resident vote. In the meantime, Ryan Terrace ROW has been raked out and is ready for the season.

A. Connor, Finance Committee chair, introduced the committee members – Frank Hoisl, Doug Bowen and Richard White – and thanked them for their service. Their

feedback to her on all District financial matters is invaluable. Their current focus is reviewing District decisions and potential actions, and their financial impact on the District.

H. Treasurer's Report:

A. Connor presented the District's finances as of April 30, 2019. She explained that the ALD has already met its revenue goal for the year. The District is also underspent by \$24,603, which will be enough to cover the remaining two months of expenses in the fiscal year. The Lebanon roads funds were also underspent, although ALD will be spending about \$5K to clean the culverts and repair potholes before the end of the fiscal year. Underspensing is mostly due to the District having budgeted for some big projects that are being deferred until next fiscal year. The proposed spending plan for 2019-2020 proposes the same total for General Funds as the current year, including the use of \$40,000 of surplus funds to pay expenses. The Board also proposed using \$10,000 of this year's Lebanon roads underspending to complete road repair projects next year.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Dr, Amston

Q: Is there something in this budget for that will pay for the repairs at Ryan Terrace?

A: No, the total repair has not yet been priced out. That's why we'd have to have a special meeting if the repairs are more than \$2500. We have already spent \$1800 for a survey and \$2,000 for an engineer.

Mark Paul, 162 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

Since we don't have any projects yet, what you're saying is this is an operating budget, not a projects budget. **A.** Agreed.

Steve Reagan, 6 Wood Acres Rd, Amston

Q: Is it wise to not have a reserve for the dam fund repair? **A:** In lieu of a dam fund, we have an Emergency Fund, which gets replenished the following year. As part of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP), we are required to have periodic inspections of the dam – so a dam committee, which can monitor and report on the condition of the dam, is being discussed.

Janet Garrett, 15 Cove Rd, Lebanon

Q: Why is there an \$18,000 increase in the lake health budget? **A:** Last year's budget was \$30K (if you include the \$10,000 project money for a study), next year it's \$39K. The Lake Health Committee is working with the new company to do a lot of testing, which are are costly but necessary to get a good baseline of data. Committee members are sampling 13 sites, 7 times over the season. They want to see where the lake is today. In the last two years, levels of both phosphorous and nitrates are going up. **Q:** Are there any requirements to joining the Finance committee? **A:** No. In fact it's possible to learn more from people who aren't in finance, to help understand what people need to know.

I. Tax Collector's Report:

A. Connor walked us through the Tax Collector's slide. She discussed the formula to estimate your tax bill, and said the formula will be posted to the website on the Tax Collector's page.

Tax Collector Eileen Curtin had the delinquent list with her and said anyone could check with her after the meeting to see where they stand. There are currently 73 liens that she will be filing on Monday, May 20.

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Dr, Lebanon

Q: She understands why only the Lebanon residents have to pay more for roads, but why do they pay more in overall taxes? **A:** The mill rate in Lebanon is higher because there is less assessed value of properties in Lebanon to cover 50% of the General Fund budget. The taxes for the District are split 50-50 to each town's residents, Hebron and Lebanon.

J. Election of ALD Board of Directors:

Nancy Brown, 112 Deepwood Dr, Amston

Q: What do these positions consist of? **A:** It is a nine-member Board of Directors, with four officers. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month and they are open to the residents.

The District had the following five positions open for the Board of Directors:

1. Three 3-year terms
2. One 2-year term
3. One 1-year term

Mark Paul, 162 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

Stated that he served on the BOD for 13 years, and appealed to those who haven't been on the Board. He said that although it's a lot of work, serving your community is a very good thing to do. Plus it's a nice group of people.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Dr, Amston

She stated that for 800 property owners, there are nine people on the Board. She asked those in attendance to think about serving the community, if not this year, then another year.

The following residents ran unopposed, and were unanimously elected to the BOD:

- Frank Hoisl, 404 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, 3-year term
- Anita Connor, 145 Deepwood Dr, Amston, 3-year term
- Todd LaMontagne, 49 Cove Rd, Lebanon, 3-year term
- Jeff Greenfield, 247 Deepwood Drive, Amston, 2-year term
- Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr, Amston, 1-year term

K. Election of ALD Board Officers:

The following Directors ran unopposed, and were unanimously elected as the BOD officers:

- Frank Hoisl, President
- Brandon Pelegano, Vice President

- Anita Connor, Treasurer
- Liz Bowen, Clerk

L. Consider and Act Upon Proposed Budget for FY 2019-20:

A. Stec reviewed the year's activities of the Lebanon Roads and went over the proposed spending plan, which remains the same as last year. There will be a \$10K surplus from the current year that will be used for upcoming drainage work. Several roads have been identified as problem areas so she will be working in conjunction with the Lake Health Committee.

Les Parlin, 21 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon

Q: Is there any possibility of paving the Lebanon roads? Even just short runs of steep roads? **A:** It's very expensive, but it could be possible that some paving is a better long-term solution. A. Stec reported that the town of Lebanon has made it clear that they have no intention of taking over any of our roads.

Erika Lindeberg, 94 Cove Rd, Lebanon

Q: Are there any plans to clean out drainage? And has a contractor been hired to do road maintenance? **A:** Yes, we're engaging an engineer for the drainage work. Roads will be crowned on an alternating schedule and this fall the roads won't be done until after the drainage work has been completed. The potholes will be repaired by Brett Harlow.

Janet Garret, 15 Cove Rd, Lebanon

Q: Which roads are going to be crowned this year? **A:** Not certain at this time.

B. Lederer made a motion to accept the Lebanon Roads budget as proposed, T. LaMontagne seconded.

Results: Yes 36, No 0. Lebanon Roads budget of \$35,000 was approved as presented.

Drew Gibson made a motion to accept the General Fund budget as proposed, A. Stec seconded.

Sylvain Morin, 14 Kellys Corner, Lebanon

Q: Why do homeowners on the Lebanon side pay more in taxes? Is it because there are fewer houses? **A:** No. Mill rates are based on all taxable property in the town. The ALD is given the assessments from each of the towns and currently there is more assessed value in Hebron to cover one half of the budget than there is in Lebanon.

Results: Yes 65, No 0. General Fund budget of \$124,700 was approved as presented.

At this point in the meeting A. Connor acknowledged ALD Tax Collector Eileen Curtin, as well as contractor and ALD resident Jeff Hatch.

Janet Garret, 15 Cove Rd, Lebanon

Q: What would make it easier for people to pay for multiple properties? **A:** It is fine to pay with one check.

M. Establish Date for 2020 District Annual Meeting:

B. Pelegano made a motion to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting on May 23, 2020 at 10 A.M. at the Douglas Library, Drew Gibson seconded. It was pointed out that the date fell on Memorial Day weekend. The motion was amended to have the meeting on May 16, 2020 at the Douglas Library, if available. Motion was unanimously approved.

N. Adjournment:

A. Stec moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 A.M., seconded by B. Pelegano, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by
Liz Bowen, Clerk
Amston Lake District

Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.