

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES

August 15, 2018 7:00 P.M.

ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, CT 06231

www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, N. Nurge. Absent: B. Lederer, A. Stec, M. Dagon.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: B. Pelegano moved to approve the July 18, 2018 minutes, seconded by N. Nurge. Motion was unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence and Communications:

L. Bowen reported that A. Connor received a letter from the soil scientist regarding the Cove Road lots, which will be discussed under Old Business.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Mike's Place: F. Hoisl spoke to Atty Adam Cohen, who advised that the District has no obligation to maintain Mike's Place at this time, since there are no homes on the road. F. Hoisl recommends contacting the two landowners on that road to see what their plans are, as that will affect our maintenance in the future. He will also contact the homeowner whose legal address is on Spafford Drive and let her know that we have no plans to maintain Mike's Place, since there are no homes on that street.
2. Records retention/ destruction plan: 1. Four BOD members and a volunteer went through every box in our storage unit last month, and sorted and labeled them. Separate boxes were made for the dam, lake health, minutes, finance, etc. The next step will be to go through and further sort the boxes that remain. We will need permission from the state of CT to destroy certain records and hopefully we can scan the maps. 2. A. Connor made a spread sheet of all the parcels that the ALD owns, through research from the storage unit boxes, and several visits to the vaults at the town halls.
3. Cove Road wetlands report – A. Connor received and shared the results of the soil testing that Wes Wentworth, P.E., did at the lots the District recently acquired on Cove Road. The results were inconclusive as to whether this parcel could be reassessed as wetlands instead of a building lot. His letter stated that further testing would be required to make that determination. A. Connor will contact him again to get a price for this testing.
4. Elsmere ROW plunge pool: The plunge pool at this ROW is collapsing. B. Harlow believes that part of the problem is that leaves and debris have blown

into the channel, diverting the water from the plunge pool. Also, he believes the boat rack was originally placed too close to the channel. All the boats on the rack will have to be removed for this work to be done. In addition, the tree behind the boat rack needs to be removed. B. Pelegano will contact M. Dagon and have her check with the arborist to schedule the tree work to be done in November, after the boats have been removed, and then she can contact any owners whose boats are remaining so that all of this work can be coordinated.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl went through the action list, with these items still outstanding:

1. Last month a resident asked about the possibility of building two pickleball courts at the lake. F. Hoisl will contact the resident to tell him that we will not be able to consider it at this time.
2. N. Nurge was able to positively identify the weed that has been cropping up on the beaches as Burr Weed. The seeds can be brought in and spread around by Canada Geese, and the best way to remove it is to pull it up by the roots. Raking the beaches may actually exacerbate the problem.
3. F. Hoisl reminded us that it is time to do the RFP's for snow removal.
4. The buoy that remains off the corner off Main Beach will be removed by B. Pelegano.
5. The boat pass signs that are still up will be removed by N. Nurge.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners:

Brett Harlow, 403 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

He stated that he thinks spending money on barley straw is foolish and that while some homeowners want several bales in front of their property, some homeowners don't want them near their property at all. In any event, he believes we are leaving the bales in the water much too long. As an example, he stated that the bales that were placed in the NE cove are decomposing, odorous, and didn't have any effect. Brett believes the District should be adding more plunge pools around the lake, rather than using the barley straw. F. Hoisl stated that this topic would be considered at the next Lake Health Committee meeting. B. Pelegano said that we could get an additional opinion on the barley straw from AER, the company that is doing the lake bathymetry study.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Road, Hebron

Jerry's nephew is a lake scientist, and believes that putting barley straw into the lake as we have been doing is not effective. A better way would be if the bales were put into the new catch basins that the town has put in and/or to put them directly in the plunge pools. He believes that they should be placed at points of entry, not in the vessel of water. 2. The property at 23 Rondaly in Hebron is vacant and in disrepair. Jerry has spoken with town manager Andy Tierney, who agrees that the property is problematic, but the town of Hebron doesn't have a blight ordinance. F. Hoisl will follow up with the owner of the property, Glenn Ostrager.

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

1. Carl remembers when the District first started using barley straw. The algae in the lake had been getting worse and worse, and he believes the barley improved the water

quality. 2. The boat launch site at Main beach is covered with grass and leaves, which he believes will create slippery conditions when people are trying to pull their boats out, and thinks we might have to add gravel to the area. 3. The brush is 5 feet high at the main dam and needs to be trimmed, per state regulations. 4. The front of the duck pond dam also needs to be cleared of weeds at the water's edge. 5. Carl would be willing to help with the Sign Committee.

Don Ray 229 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

Don believes that nothing has been done at the lake since he left the board in 2000. He stated that Lollipop Beach hasn't had any sand added since we bought the lake, and that all District-owned property needs to be cleaned up and straightened out because there is so much brush everywhere. He cited the Berglund property, as well as Main and Lollipop beaches – and believes we should have everything cut down. He has a brand new tractor and will help out in any way he can. Don also suggested that the District never treat the weeds or dredge again because the lake needs the weeds for the fish population.

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

1. Joyce stated that she has been asking about the plans for the NE cove since the 2010 dredging, when the ALD didn't follow through on the post-dredging plan. One item that was committed to at the time, but never incorporated, was a rain garden in the cove. She stated that the lake has had 5 dredgings, but no maintenance plans following any of them. 2. Joyce is on the Lake Health Committee and has three assigned areas for water collection. She has repeatedly told the Lake Health Committee that she has been unable to collect for the last three months in a critical area in that NE cove because of the reed growth and sediment. She took pictures of the reeds and they were tentatively identified by Peter Picone from the DEEP as *Phragmites australis*. Mr. Picone gave her the name of another DEEP employee, Roger Wolfe, who has much more familiarity with this reed. F. Hoisl will contact him and arrange a site visit. 3. Joyce requested that AER, the company that is doing the bathymetry study, be asked to do a study of the five areas that have been dredged.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

Al wondered if the District would be willing to sponsor a small tagging program for the bass in the lake. He and others have noticed that the bass have increased in size from last year to this, and would like a means of measuring that growth, and at the same time create some interest in fishing at the lake. He has discussed this idea with both the Lake Health Committee and the DEEP. Al would do all the tagging, and then whenever anyone caught a fish with a tag, they would (ideally) weigh and measure it, and then take a photo. Al would keep a spreadsheet with results to see how quickly they're growing. A. Connor mentioned that we have \$528 still in the Fish Fund that could possibly be used for this purpose. Al will get back to us with estimated costs to run the program, but estimates it will be less than \$500.

H. Receive President's Report:

1. F. Hoisl reported that there was a large house fire on the Lebanon side of the lake last month. He spoke to the Lebanon Fire Captain and was informed that there is a fire pipe at Lollipop beach but it wasn't useful. He plans to meet with the Hebron Fire Captain about the fire pipe at Main beach. 2. F. Hoisl and M. Dagon met with a group

of residents that use the Ryan Terrace ROW. He believes in gathering data, and no decisions were made. M. Dagon will get a cost estimate for the work the residents have requested, although the District has money budgeted for maintenance only. M. Dagon will meet with Treasurer A. Connor regarding the budgeting process. F. Hoisl's concern is that he doesn't want to create 7 more beaches around the lake. 3. A member of the BOD resigned after the last meeting, but after sending out an email blast, we have a candidate who is willing to serve. The candidate will attend the September meeting and the BOD will vote on adding him to the Board. He has stated that he would like to work on the Lebanon Roads Committee.

I. Receive Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports:

1. A. Connor emailed the July financials to the BOD before the meeting, and will post them on the website. There were no questions from the BOD about the reports. 2. E. Curtin emailed the Tax Collector's report to the BOD before the meeting and it has been posted to the website. A. Connor will add an amendment to the Tax Collector's report, stating that the reason the July collections are down is due to the decrease in the annual approved budget for the new fiscal year (July 1 2018-June 30, 2019) compared to the previous year's. This decrease in collections was expected. 3. E. Curtin recommended that we mail out delinquent notices in September to increase collections. All agreed that was a good idea.

J. Consider and Act Upon Standing and Special Committees' Reports:

1. Finance: The Finance committee did not meet this month, so there is no report.
2. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported that the Lake Health Committee is having an open house this Saturday from 11 a.m. - noon. The committee has had seven meetings so far and their intention is to update the residents on what they've been doing and to also solicit ideas from the community.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. M. Dagon was not in attendance, but submitted a report for the past month. 1. She thanked resident Jeff Hatch, who has been raking the Burr Weeds from Main beach with his tractor. 2. Resident Carl Wool commented that 18 years ago, prickler bushes were put in place at the entrance to Main beach so that people wouldn't go through them. 3. Lollipop beach was cleared of grass by Brett Harlow. 4. See President's Report, item 2 regarding Ryan Terrace ROW. The residents have asked permission to trim the brush themselves, until further work is approved, but this was not authorized.
4. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano reported that security has been canceled for much of the past few weeks, due to the weather. 2. The orange boat that has been floating around the lake will be removed at the end of the season.
5. Lebanon Roads: A. Stec was not at the meeting so there was no report from the Roads Committee.
6. Signs: N. Nurge has volunteered to take over this committee and has five additional volunteers. She would like to see consistent "standing" signage on all the beaches and ROWs and is also going to develop a system for "periodic" signage (boat passes, District meetings, etc). The committee's initial goal is to

map out where all of our signs are now, and hope to present a realistic signage budget for fiscal year 2019-2020.

7. In Communications, L. Bowen stated that four email blasts had been sent to residents since the last BOD meeting, and one would be sent tomorrow, reminding people of the Lake Health open house on August 18.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

There was no new business to discuss.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

Nothing to add at this time.

- M. Adjournment:** A. Connor moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM, seconded by N. Nurge, 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.