

**AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**

August 16, 2017 7:00 P.M.  
ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, CT 06231  
[www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org)

**A. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

**B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:**

M. Paul, F. Hoisl, A. Connor, L. Bowen, M. Kelly, A. Stec  
Absent: L. Lenti, M. Grydon, B. Pelegano

**C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners:**

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood, Hebron

1. Thanks for all the work the BOD put in over the last month. 2. Any follow up on Ostrager property ("beach" in NE Cove)? 3. Had conversation with Eileen O'Donnell from DEEP re: bass situation. Bass numbers are way down, size is down. There is a possibility that they got hit with a large-mouth bass virus, but we can't tell for sure without a dead fish to test. Spoke to her about catfish too. Eileen suggested that we might not want to stock yet until we figure out what is going on in the lake. Winning fish at the bass tournament last weekend was only slightly over a pound. 4. Al pulled out three bags of dodder weed (a land-based weed) at Lollipop - it needs to be eradicated. 5. Any plans for the \$50k [approved at the annual meeting] without any pending special projects?

Doug Bowen, 156 Deepwood, Lebanon

1. Suggested the BOD needs to closely examine amending the bylaws so that petitions can't be presented by such a small percentage of the ALD population. The number of yes votes for the pavilion at the Special Meeting didn't even equal the number of people that signed the original petition. It took the Board's attention away from other issues that are important in the summer and was a distraction and expense to the community.

Joyce Clark – 6 Deepwood, Lebanon

1. Thanked the BOD for a very organized special meeting this past weekend. 2. Would be interested in being on a committee for long-term health of lake.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood, Hebron

1. Has also recently become aware of the dodder weed. 2. For residents that want to help out by volunteering to pull weeds, pick up trash, etc, should we have a release form for them to sign? 3. Has forwarded estimates from Brett for end-of-summer work at the beaches and ROWs and there will be more work to come in the fall that residents have suggested. 4. Resident emailed her stating that paddle boats don't fit on the boat racks and wondering if there were something we could do for them.

**D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by F. Hoisl to approve the July 17, 2017 minutes. Seconded by A. Stec. Correction was made by A. Connor under Treasurer's Report - 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should refer to FY 18, rather than FY 8. All approved.

**E. Receive President's Report:**

M. Paul thanked the BOD for all the work done having to do with the pavilion petition and the special meeting. Now we can focus on some of the things we talked about last meeting: lake health, working with town of Lebanon.

**F. Receive Treasurer's Report:**

Current financials are posted on the website. Because the ALD has collected over 50% of our total taxes in July, it looks like there is a lot of cash on hand. A. Connor will be transferring \$4-5,000 per month into the Special Projects fund until we get to the \$50K target. The accountants have yet to complete their work. When completed, we will not require them to attend a Board meeting. A written report will be acceptable.

**G. Receive Tax Collector's Report:**

A. Connor presented the Tax Collector's report and it is on the website.

**H. Receive Clerk's Report:**

L. Bowen explained how and why the August 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting came about and what was involved to advertise and disseminate the information for the meeting to the residents, all within the three weeks mandated by the by-laws.

**I. Presentation of Correspondence:**

1. Hand-delivered letter received from Marge Nichols on July 23, 2017 with a petition to re-vote the motion on the pavilion that did not pass at the annual meeting. 2. Certified letter received from Marge Nichols on July 31, 2017 with a petition to fund the pavilion (if approved at the August 12 special meeting) with \$60,000 from the Rainy Day fund, and \$25,000 from the Special Projects fund. 2. Email from M. Dagon with estimates from Brett Harlow for work to be done on beaches and ROWs. 3. Email from resident asking to meet with member(s) of BOD regarding NE Cove. 4. Email exchange from resident whose name should be on the Lebanon grand list, but isn't. It was suggested to her that she clear it up with the town. 5. Emails from a couple of residents prior to the Special Meeting, asking about absentee ballots. M. Paul explained that in order to do this, we would have to go back to the legislature and re-open the charter. 6. F. Hoisl is working with K. Acimovic who requested more information to complete the dam EAP (emergency action plan) required by the DEEP.

**J. Receive Lake Management Reports/Review Goals and Objectives:**

F. Hoisl reported that we are going to continue to do deepwater and stormwater testing, and that the samples already collected are currently at the lab. Dr. Knocklein or one of his associates will also do an end-of-summer plant life survey, and then re-start the whole process at the beginning of next summer. We will also get him to re-visit the NE Cove for updated recommendations, as well as the other areas that have been considered for dredging. Testing that Dr. K is doing is for phosphorous, nitrogen, and oxygenation – general water quality of the lake.

Public health departments should be testing for bacteria – Main beach is being tested by Hebron (Chatham health district) but Lebanon (Uncas health) has not been tested recently. ACTION: F. Hoisl will follow up with Uncas to find out what their testing schedule is, and if it differs from what it should be.

**K. Consider and Act Upon Standing and Special Committees' Reports:**

1. Lebanon roads: A. Stec is working on a history of what's been done to date and also doing a walk-around to survey the current state of the roads. Her goal is to have a 5-year plan for maintenance. Some roads have potholes that need immediate repair. Trying to get a handle on type of road repair that has least impact on lake. Will be doing RFP (request for proposal) for snow removal contract.
2. Security, Boats: A. Connor reported that a resident who did not remove her kayak last fall now wants her boat back, but hasn't paid the fine. Have not heard from her recently, so we need to auction this boat. F. Hoisl stated that a resident asked if boat removal could be extended to Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued. Decision was that the Nov 1<sup>st</sup> date would be held, as it becomes more difficult to remove the docks with colder weather and potential for snow.
3. Communications: M. Paul stated that some of our communications can be done more efficiently and we are reviewing options. A. Stec has been very helpful in this process. Our new signs have not been ordered yet due to cost concerns – M. Paul will get design and specs from M. Grydon and give to A. Stec to get additional quotes.
4. Dam/ Duck pond: F. Hoisl said that we should have a discussion at a future date on options for the duck pond dam repairs.
5. Beaches and ROWs: Discussion of estimates received (via M. Dagon) from B. Harlow re: beaches and ROWs. Discussion ensued. A. Connor made a motion to approve spending \$2600 as listed on the proposal, A. Stec seconded. All approved.
6. Finance, docks & rentals: A. Connor has re-established the Finance committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday 8/21. Also wants to do a seminar in October to educate any interested residents on how to read our financials and what they mean.
7. Calendar & tasks: A. Connor revised the calendar and task list, changing it from an Excel file to a Word document. All agreed it was easier to follow in the new format. The Board will decide next month who will take over this agenda item.

**L. Old Business---Discussion and Possible Action:**

1. Claire Lenti memorial: B. Harlow has installed a bench for Claire at the Elsmere ROW, and did a nice red crushed stone heart under and around it. As this monument speaks for itself, we will not add anything extra, but will cover Brett's installation costs

(\$300). There was \$95 remaining in the bench fund, and M. Paul has had a few residents asking if there were any way they could contribute, so any moneys collected from residents will go toward the remaining installation charge. 2. Hebron town manager has told M. Paul that the town is going to re-sell the old service station on Rt 85 after they remediate the contamination. As that property is in the ALD, M. Paul will follow up with the town to verify their plans. 3. M. Paul will send a letter to Glenn Ostrager reminding him that although he didn't place the sand on the new "beach" in the NE cove, it is his responsibility to get the sand removed, as it is his property. M. Paul will also ask B. Harlow to install silt fencing at the water's edge of that property until such time as the sand is removed.

**M. New Business----Discussion and Possible Action:**

1. Lost & Found. Perhaps find a central place to put residents' property when found, so that Board members don't have to store. Idea was discussed and dismissed. Security will continue to hold onto found items, and residents can contact them or B. Pelegano to recover lost items. 2. Fish restocking – will defer to Eileen O'Donnell from the DEEP who, as reported earlier in the meeting, suggested not re-stocking in the spring until we determine why our bass numbers are down. 3. Anytime a contractor does work on ALD property that requires a permit, they should be taking out the permit and giving a copy to the Board to have on file.

**N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:**

Add snow removal contract discussion.

**O. Adjournment:**

F. Hoisl made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by L.Bowen. All approved.  
The meeting adjourned at 10:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by  
Liz Bowen, Clerk  
Amston Lake District