

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES

February 21, 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 7:01 P.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

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

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

Kevin Grady 199 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

1. Says we need to order this year's barley straw – it needs to go in around the last wk of March. It has about a 3-4 month life span and can be pulled out at the end of July. 2. has a concern about geese droppings – says there is quite a bit at Main beach. We could possibly have people pick it up and remove it from time to time or maybe even use a dog to chase the geese away.

Brett Harlow 403 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

1. Brett has done work at Red Cedar Lake, and witnessed their geese problems. Says it is illegal to destroy their eggs, but you can go to the nest and shake the eggs, which will cause them not to hatch and then the parents won't return to that same location. Says that Red Cedar has cut the goose population in half in four years. He also recommends that we do an email blast reminding residents to not feed the ducks or geese. 2. At end of Scanlon Extension in Lebanon some construction vehicles did damage to the road.

ALD tax collector, E. Curtin, says that the Eastern CT Conservation District sells local Barley straw. It has to be picked up, but it's better than ordering from out of state. She will give contact information to Anita, who will order the bales. B. Harlow recommended we order 32 bales.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

F. Hoisl moved to approve the January 17, 2018 minutes, seconded by A. Stec. Five members approved, A. Connor abstained, and motion passed.

E. Receive President's Report:

President's report items will be discussed under new business.

F. Receive Treasurer's Report:

1. A. Connor presented the January 2018 monthly financial report, which has been uploaded to the website. 2. A. Connor continues to transfer \$4K per month into the futures projects fund, so that it will be fully-funded (\$50K) by the end of the fiscal year.

3. 1099's were sent out to our independent contractors in late January, and then were filed electronically with the IRS by the January 31 due date.

G. Receive Tax Collector's Report:

1. The Tax Collector's report will be posted on the website. 2. Thus far, we have collected 86% of the annual budget. Additional collections are expected once E. Curtin sends out late notices and the Notice of Intent to Lien at the beginning of April. 3. There are several upcoming real estate closings in the District, which will generate income, as you cannot transfer property without paying off unpaid taxes.

H. Receive Clerk's Report:

1. No email blasts were sent out since the last meeting. 2. L. Bowen went through every page of the website and gave a sheet of corrections to A. Stec, who is about halfway through the changes. 3. L. Bowen spoke to the newsletter designer, who has agreed to work with us again for a fee of \$100, the same as last year. 4. L. Bowen met with two local printers, while A. Stec researched costs for online printers – when the last quote comes in, recommendations will be made to the BOD, probably at the March meeting. 5. L. Bowen read through the last 10 years of newsletters, made a list of topics covered, whittled it down with the help of A. Stec, and presented it to the BOD for additions, changes, and suggestions. After discussion on who will be responsible for submitting content, it was decided that all articles should be sent to L. Bowen by April 4th, so they can be discussed at the April 18th meeting.

I. Presentation of Correspondence:

No correspondence received this month.

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

1. Lake health: 1. F. Hoisl sent a statement of work to lake scientist Dr. Knocklein, with questions about barley straw, fish stocking and how to monitor its impact, algae blooms, and dredging. No response yet but they are scheduled to talk in March. Need to get his recommendations in time to work on budgeting. Answers that Dr. K gives us will drive the Lake Health committee budget recommendations. 2. F. Hoisl also charted results of the water sampling, but we will need to do more sampling in the future and will need volunteers to be trained to help with that effort. F. Hoisl now has all the testing equipment. 3. Another Lake Health committee meeting is scheduled for the last week of February.
2. Lebanon roads: 1. A. Stec reports that we have had 36" of snow so far this season. She is starting to see the crown of the roads being removed after plowing, with noticeable gravel loss, and gravel being pushed to the side of the roads. She wondered if anyone had any surveyor's maps of the roads – so we would know exactly what we own, and how wide the roads should be. Also wondered at what point do we consider paving – maintenance is not inexpensive every year – we rebuild the roads in the spring, and then plow away part of what was just repaired over the winter. Discussion ensued about the enormous expense of even partial paving vs. ongoing maintenance. 2. In 2016 culverts were added and some pipes were buried under the roads to allow water

to move under the road, rather than over it. It appears that some of this work has redistributed water onto residents' properties – A. Stec recommends we look into what the limits of our authority are in this area?

3. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano met with Aron Security, who will be our new security provider this year. Last year, with a different company, we used 84 hours per week, and in response to resident comments, he is considering the option of increasing to 100 hours per week. He will present both those options at the annual meeting. 2. One of the two remaining catamarans on Main beach was removed by the ALD. B. Pelegano will contact the owner of the last catamaran to make arrangements for its removal.
4. Communications: See Clerk's report above.
5. Dam/ Duck pond: Since it takes approximately 4 weeks for the lake to come back up from its winter water level, it was decided that the weir boards will be put back in place on or about March 17th, in anticipation of fishing opening day on April 15th.
6. Beaches and ROWs: We will continue to distribute the parking, beach and boating passes as we have the last several years, with the schedule of pick-up dates to be announced. A. Connor will check our invoices to see how many of each we ordered last year, and A. Stec will order them from the company in Lebanon that we have been using.
7. Finance, docks & rentals: 1. The Finance committee is planning on meeting in early March to work on the format of the budget and the budget itself. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of using a 5-year rolling average to prepare the budget, vs. doing the budget on projected income and expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. 2. Committee chairs were asked to get budgets to A. Connor ASAP so that we can go over them at the March BOD meeting.
8. Calendar & tasks: 1. F. Hoisl will contact Dave Arnold to confirm that he will still be handling dock management. 2. Gates at Main and Lollipop beaches are usually closed from 9PM to 7AM. However, the Board has decided to leave the gates unlocked this summer on a trial basis, as is done in the off-season.

K. Old Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

Nothing to report.

L. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Owner of an unapproved building lot has proposed donating it to the District. M. Paul will speak to the owner about the property's history to determine if there might be any adverse environmental issues due to a house formerly being on the property. We could possibly hire the soil scientist again to make a determination on whether or not it is wetlands, in which case the town taxes would be minimal, and we would preserve additional undeveloped land in the watershed. 2. M. Paul asked that we begin planning for the annual meeting presentation. Discussed about what the presentation consisted of in 2017, and what we want to do for 2018. The manner of voting for BOD members

was discussed, with M. Paul stating that the ALD attorney has said that the paper ballot method is the correct and legal way to do it, although it takes a little longer. It was also agreed that we want to have the proposed budget available on the website prior to the meeting, which will be held at the Douglas Library in Hebron at 10AM on May 19.

M. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

Nothing to add at this time.

N. Adjournment:

B. Pelegano moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:33. Seconded by M. Kelly. 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.