

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES

January 17, 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 6:58 P.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

M. Paul, F. Hoisl, L. Bowen, A. Stec, B. Pelegano

Absent: L. Lenti, A. Connor, M. Kelly, M. Grydon

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

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

1. She believes the Board is doing some positive things, but is disappointed and annoyed that she was not informed of Dr. Knocklein's latest visit, when she had been assured that she would be included in the meeting. 2. She joined the Lake Health committee in hopes of helping to improve general quality of life at the lake and is hoping that includes dealing with blighted properties and speeding on lake roads. Perhaps BOD will address these issues under another committee and not Lake Health? Perhaps address these two issues with a flyer in the tax bills or address at the annual meeting.

Drew Gibson, 8 Rondaly Rd, Amston.

1. A sign at Main beach is down and in pieces. Before he repairs it, he wonders if the BOD had any plans for new signage there – doesn't want to duplicate efforts. 2. The other sign at Main beach is falling apart and he'd like to replace it with something bigger. 3. Ice fisherman and others would like one of the beach parking lots plowed to make it easier to get to the lake.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

F. Hoisl moved to approve the December 13, 2017 minutes, seconded by A. Stec.

Three members approved, B. Pelegano abstained, and motion passed.

E. Receive President's Report:

M. Paul stated that the BOD did discuss adding blight to the ordinances the last time they were done but at the time, the BOD felt that we didn't have the manpower to deal with blight. He referenced ordinance 2008.14, which does afford us some opportunity to deal with these problems. In the recent past, we have had a few situations that were successfully dealt with –so if a resident notices something, they can bring it to the Board's attention. Resident Laurel Hennebury said they had a situation with blight on her former street in Lebanon and found it was effective to go through the town.

F. Receive Treasurer's Report:

1. A. Connor was not present but sent the December 2017 monthly financial report, which will be posted on the website. She reported that there was little activity for the

month of December, but that January will be a busier month due to taxes collected, as well as taxes owed by the ALD.

G. Receive Tax Collector's Report:

1. The Tax Collector's report will be posted on the website. 2. E. Curtin said the email blast that went out reminding residents of the tax due date was effective for collections in December. January collections have also been good - month-to-date collections are \$14,759 with more picked up in today's mail. 3. When Eileen started doing tax collections in 2002, there were almost \$80K in delinquencies, and now it's down to about \$11K.

H. Receive Clerk's Report:

1. Email blast sent Dec 20 with warning about boat thefts and reminder about no fireworks on ALD properties. Another sent Dec 24 with Happy Holidays from the BOD. Another sent Dec 28 with reminder about paying taxes by Jan 31, and added a note about annual meeting being moved to the Hebron library for 2018. Will continue to include reminder about the annual meeting location on future email blasts, with a dedicated blast (or two) going out in April & May. 2. Filed application with Hebron library for community room use for annual meeting on May 19th, starting at 9am. 3. Contacted the newsletter designer, who has agreed to do the newsletter again this year. We will be in contact again before the end of January.

I. Presentation of Correspondence:

1. Received email from resident inquiring about not receiving email blasts. E. Bowen followed up by telling her how to sign up at the website. 2. Email from resident asking for parking pass, as he never picked his up this summer. A. Stec is following up. 3. Email received from a resident asking the BOD to plow Main and Lollipop beaches ASAP. Will be discussed later in the meeting.

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

1. F. Hoisl reported that the first meeting of the Lake Health committee was Monday January 15 with nine residents from both sides of lake attending. They will try to meet every few months, and M. Kelly will be chairperson. It was agreed that the data we have right now is spotty and that we need more volunteers to collect samples. Dr. Knocklein will come out and train residents to do sampling. It was also discussed how important it is to get the data out to the residents. Committee will meet again in February. 2. B. Pelegano asked if we were considering other limnologists but F. Hoisl and M. Paul said that we are waiting to get Dr. K's interpretations of the data he has to date, which will not be until the end of March or beginning of April. Discussion ensued about why it is taking so long to get his recommendations. ACTION: Frank will do a statement of work for Dr. Knocklein by the end of January – then it will be very clear whether he is meeting expectations. 3. Resident and former BOD member Laurel Hennebury says nothing has changed with our relationship with Dr. K and expressed frustration about our continued engagement with him. 4. F. Hoisl requested that we delete this agenda item (J) but add the Lake Health committee to item K.

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

1. Lebanon roads: 1. A. Stec reported that we haven't had any resident comments

or complaints about snow removal, so no news is good news. The last huge rainstorm, not surprisingly, caused flooding on Deepwood Drive in Lebanon. 2. Some of the culverts on the private roads in Lebanon appear to be filled again – she will check them this weekend, and determine if they need to be cleaned out again. ACTION: Mark will contact Baldi Landscaping to get a copy of the culvert cleaning contract.

2. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano reports that we will be hiring a new security company this summer in hopes of improved performance – they are \$1.35 more per hour but seem responsive and reliable. B. Pelegano is working to budget for more coverage for the summer – last year security worked an average of 84 hours per week. They can also do year-round if that's what we decide. He is considering putting two budgets together – one for summer only, one for year-round – to bring to the annual meeting for a vote from the residents. 2. Evan submitted a bill to A. Connor for removing boats from the ROWs and beaches. A few people reached out to find out how to get their boats returned. Two residents have still not removed their catamarans from Main beach, and discussion ensued about levying fines for non-compliance. Discussion about adding a question on the bottom of yearly boat registrations to ask if residents might need assistance to remove their boats at the end of the season. 3. Snow plowing the two beach parking lots was discussed. Pros included letting people get closer to the ice to enjoy it. Cons included attracting non-residents, and liability that the District would have by “inviting” people to go on the ice by plowing the lots. It had been discussed among the BOD several years ago and decided against, and for now that is how it stands.
3. Communications: 1. See Clerk's report above. 2. Want to have the newsletter available by the end of May. E. Bowen has made contact with the designer and A. Stec will start contacting printers. E. Bowen has made a list of past topics which she will bring to the next meeting to discuss. Written articles should be submitted by April 1st.
4. Dam/ Duck pond: 1. F. Hoisl removed the last weir board, and the lake is down to the level that we need it to be. The lake froze almost immediately after that, so we need to be careful next year about timing. We did it very late this year because the weather was so nice and people continued to boat on the lake until very late in the fall.
5. Beaches and ROWs: 1. A. Stec reported that there is a ramp from one of the boat slips at Lollipop that appears to just be sitting on one of the docks, and possibly not secure. E. Bowen will ask A. Connor to check with Brett Harlow to make sure that all are secure. 2. Parking, beach and boat passes – discussion ensued about how to handle things for the upcoming year since R. Decormier is no longer on the BOD. A. Stec has the passes for now, and we will discuss plans for this item at next month's meeting.
6. Finance, docks & rentals: A. Connor was not present so there was no Finance committee report.

7. Calendar & tasks: All January tasks were reviewed and completed.

L. Old Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

Nothing to report.

M. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

Nothing at this time.

N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

1. Add Beach, parking and boat passes.
2. Add Newsletter discussion.

O. Adjournment:

L. Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31. 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.