

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

January 16, 2019 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, A. Stec, B. Lederer,
T. LaMontagne. Absent: N. Nurge, M. Dagon.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A. Stec moved to approve the December 19, 2018 minutes, seconded by A. Connor, and the motion was unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. Email from a Ryan Terrace resident about the Ryan Terrace ROW – he believes that the primary cause of the erosion at the ROW was the overflowing storm drain from across Deepwood Drive, and that the town of Lebanon should be responsible for repairing, upgrading and maintaining the drain. 2. Email from a resident wondering what to do about people shooting off fireworks on Main beach – and not just on the 4th of July. 3. A Connor received a response from the town of Lebanon, reporting that there are 20 properties that still aren't hooked up to the sewers. All of them appear to have houses on them, although two might not have houses anymore. F. Hoisl will write a letter to the town to find out what their procedure is for dealing with these properties and then we can determine how we, as a District should proceed. 4. F. Hoisl received several emails regarding what to do with the Ryan Terrace ROW. 5. The ALD requested that the town clean out the culvert on Deepwood across from the Ryan Terrace ROW, and the work has been completed. F. Hoisl is following up with Lebanon First Selectwoman Betsy Petrie, to see if there's a plan for repair and maintenance going forward.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Rogue dock at Cove ROW: Caution tape has been installed on the dock. The District will attempt to contact the owner again once the lake thaws in the spring.
2. Status of assessed fines: We received partial payment from one resident, one letter was returned as undeliverable, and ALD attorney Adam Cohen reported that he received full payment of the amount due regarding the Lollipop beach damage.
3. Lake Manager: A. Connor asked that we table this topic for now and include it as part of a 5-year plan. There were no objections.

F. Task List and Action Items

1. F. Hoisl went through the January and February task list with no items outstanding. A. Connor asked that we add “send out the 1099 forms to vendors” to the January task list for next year. L. Bowen will update the list before the next meeting.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood, Hebron

1. He reported that the repairs at Elsmere ROW have been completed – the swale has been straightened out and more rock was added to the plunge pool. 2. He showed us a rough drawing of the contractor’s proposed repairs for Oakland ROW to include repair of the existing pipes and cleanout of the plunge pool. The contractor has also proposed putting down a layer of stone, followed by clay, topsoil, and then grass seed. Carl will present the contractor's quote to the Beaches and ROWs Committee for review. The committee’s recommendations will then be brought to the BOD. 3. Carl recommended that we put the weir board back in the dam because the water level is still high and if we have a thaw, the ice could damage waterfront walls.

Jean Waleszczyk, 267 Deepwood, Hebron

She requested permission to do a blessing of the animals on Main beach on April 6, 2019 to be conducted by the pastor at Abundant Life Church. The Board had no objections.

Dave Bareiss, 151 Deepwood, Lebanon

He would like the BOD to consider asking a series of questions to the limnologist from AER (or engineer Joe Polulech) and to ask for recommendations so that the community is all working with the same information. Questions he wants answered are: Do sandy shorelines pose a threat to the lake? Can they identify any possible currents that might move the sand? What are the sources, volume and water quality of any water that enters the lake? (F. Hoisl asked him to bring these questions to the next Lake Health Committee meeting.)

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford, Lebanon

1. She was surprised to hear Carl Wool talk about adding grass to the Oakland ROW, and said that was not a recommendation from the Beaches and ROWs Committee. She would like the District to explore alternatives to grass, such as reclaiming the sand from the lake. (B. Lederer said that M. Dagon had asked Carl to take care of addressing the Oakland ROW repairs while she was away and that the BOD didn't instruct Carl to add grass to the area. F. Hoisl stated that in the past the District has tracked sand movement with colored sand and that there are, in fact, currents in the lake and “reclaiming” sand would be difficult and bring its own set of problems. He went on to say that he had suggested to Carl that in the areas where erosion had taken place, that grass be put in place of the sand.) 2. M. Nichols spoke to someone who fishes often at the ROWs who said the channel catfish that were stocked in the lake several years ago could be eating the bass eggs. She also said that another fisherman told her that bass fishing is no longer good in the area north of Lollipop beach where the lily pads were chemically treated several years ago.

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood, Lebanon

1. She reported that when she went to the Lebanon WPCA last year to check on the

number of properties that still had not connected to the sewers, she was told it was 30 properties, so it appears that 10 properties have since connected. During the initial hookup, it was determined through the engineering study that the property at 2 Deepwood didn't have to hook up – but she questioned if they should have their septic system tested. 2. There was a big fire on the Lebanon side last year, with firefighting efforts thwarted due to the fire stand (aka drafting hydrant) at Lollipop not being operational. She wondered if there were an opportunity to put in additional ones? (F. Hoisl responded that the Hebron fire chief took measurements on the Hebron side a few years ago, but could not find any areas that would get adequate water flow. F. Hoisl took measurements himself on the Lebanon side and came up with the same results.) The Board will add this item to next month's agenda.

Les Parlan, 21 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon

He was told by the Lebanon tax collector that out of approximately 3900 taxpayers in town, 300 are Amston Lake properties. He said it would be interesting to know the actual percentage in dollars – i.e., how much our community is worth tax-wise to the town. (A. Connor agreed to follow up with the tax collector to get his question answered.)

Doug Bowen, 156 Deepwood, Lebanon

He attended the group meeting with the contractor at the Ryan Terrace ROW and believes that the plans given to the Board didn't reflect what was discussed that day. The drainage area across Deepwood Drive from the ROW wasn't even in the proposed drawing or scope of work. Instead of following the natural contours of the land as was discussed at the site, the walkway down to the water that's proposed along the southern border of the ROW traverses some bony, tough topography, and it will be costly to remove the ledge, etc. and could damage the tree roots. The plan still needs to be presented to the town, the IWC, and to the residents with a special meeting to vote on the costs and it seems like there's a lack of focus. If we don't have all our approvals and the work done by the time it should be open for the summer, the residents will blame the BOD.

Sanda Rigazio-DiGilio, 190 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

She publicly thanked Marge Nichols for asking her to walk around all of the ROWs to see how they worked for persons with disabilities.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl thanked the Beaches and ROWs Committee for all their time and effort and gave M. Dagon credit for setting up stewards for the ROWs. He stated that we couldn't get all this work done without resident volunteers and wants to use committees to get even more things done. Although we might need to be clearer with expectations, we are moving in the right direction. He'd like the BOD to work together to create a 5-year plan that we can hand off to the next board. In doing that, he asked the other BOD members to think about what the District would want to see as our legacy.

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

1. A. Connor sent out the December financial statements to the other board members and posted them to the website prior to the meeting. It was a quiet month, with no plowing or sanding invoices. 2. The report shows that interest income on the District

accounts earned \$832 fiscal year-to-date. 3. A. Connor completed and mailed out the vendor 1099 tax forms and purchased a new printer/copier to replace the old copier. 4. District property taxes were paid to both towns. 5. A. Connor notified Drew Gibson that ALA can take over the old shed. 6. Tax Collector Eileen Curtin has posted her report to the website.

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

1. Finance: The Finance Committee met and discussed the projects that are on the horizon and how they might be funded. A resident recently expressed interest in joining the committee and if anyone else would be interested, please contact A. Connor.
2. Lake Health: 1. A member of the committee is a doctor of microbiology and offered to research different water testing labs in hopes of reducing costs and turnaround time from the current vendor. 2. The committee is putting together a statement of work for AER in order to get a proposal from them. 3. It was suggested that the committee get in touch with a professional engineer to see what we can do to make the plunge pools at the ROWs work more efficiently.
3. Beaches and ROWs: B. Lederer reported that the contractor met with a group of residents to discuss particular needs for the Ryan Terrace ROW. Some of the erosion problems have already been solved by cleaning out the culvert across the street from the ROW. There are three parts to the project – regrading the parking area, creating terraces in the middle sloped area, and thirdly to move the boulders down by the water to increase the seating area. The plan also calls for putting in a walkway down to the water. (A. Connor questioned the terms used to describe the scope of work, namely how the goal of repairing the ROW morphed into increasing or improving the seating area.) B. Lederer stated that by moving the boulders out, it would create a clear path for the water to run down outside of them. Discussion ensued. B. Lederer is trying to set up an unofficial meeting for Friday with the Lebanon Town Planner, the Highway Foreman and the contractor to help understand what is needed to go before the Inland Wetlands Commission, which will probably be the March meeting. She was told we must present an engineers' drawing. A. Connor made a motion to approve spending up to \$1500 to hire a professional engineer to design the repairs and modifications of the Ryan Terrace ROW, to be hired by B. Lederer. A. Stec seconded and all approved. B. Lederer will bring the engineer's drawing to the February BOD meeting. A. Connor made another motion to approve the potential expenditure of up to \$2400 to hire a licensed surveyor to produce a survey of the Ryan Terrace ROW to be submitted to the town if needed for project approval. B. Lederer seconded and all approved. A. Connor pointed out that if we run a deficit this fiscal year, we will need to include these expenses in next year's budget. B. Lederer said that hopefully the committee will have all estimated costs for this project by the February BOD meeting, and then, if approved by the Board, can go before the Inland Wetlands Commission in March.

4. Security, Boats: Notices of fines to boat owners went out last month and payments have started to come in.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. A. Stec reported that she will be meeting with a few more tree contractors so that the trees can be taken care of before the summer season. 2. A. Stec will be emailing A. Connor with snow totals for upcoming storms so that we know what to pay the snow removal contractor.
6. Signs: N. Nurge was not at the meeting so there was no report. F. Hoisl stated that a recommendation came out of the Finance Committee meeting – which is to design a prototype sign, have one built and then installed, to get resident feedback. As an example, he cited a scaled-down version of the bulletin board in front of the Hebron town hall. F. Hoisl will contact N. Nurge to present this suggestion.
7. Communications: Two email blasts have been sent out since the last meeting. The Lake Health committee would like to explore putting some of their info on the website and will discuss this with A. Stec.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

No new business was discussed at this time.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Will add the following items: 1.) Lebanon sewer non-hookups and 2.) Future fire protection.

M. Adjournment

B. Lederer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M., seconded by A. Stec, 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.