

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

MINUTES June 20, 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 7:03 P.M. after a brief presentation to M. Paul for serving many years on the Board. This is his last meeting.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

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

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

Jodi Stubbings 15 Cove Rd, Lebanon

1. Debris has been left on her property as a result of cleaning the plunge pool at the end of Cove Road – what is the procedure for getting rid of it? She feels that the contractor should have gotten permission from her to leave it there, as she is the property owner. 2. There was a tree removed (she thinks by the town) and it's blocking the water movement into the plunge pool.

Brett Harlow, 403 Deepwood, Lebanon

1. Stated that he is the contractor that left the debris and will remove it. 2. Brett believes the town should put a plunge pool on the east side of the road, opposite Cove Rd. ROW.

Clara O'Brien, 56 Ames Road, Hebron

She is the Chair of the Hebron Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and has been on the commission for 21 years. She wanted to alert the ALD to the fact that there is a \$6.8M project in the works to upgrade the nine Hebron pump stations and needs help from the Hebron Amston Lake residents. She referenced an article in the June 15 issue of the Rivereast News Bulletin which gave the specifics of the project. She is working to make the cost of this project shared by all town residents and not just those connected to the sewers. The reasoning is that sewers benefit everyone in town, as many of the businesses in the center of town are hooked up to the sewers, as are the public buildings and the schools. A public hearing will probably be held in July, followed by a town meeting, and she will notify us of the dates, so that Hebron ALD residents will be able to attend and support town-wide cost sharing.

Tony and Sandra Rigazio-DiGilio, 190 Deepwood, Lebanon

They came before the Board and apologized. Last week they were in the process of adding sand to the lake at their waterfront, when they were stopped from doing so by a Board member. Since that time, they have gone to the Lebanon Inland Wetlands Commission to start an application to add sand to the lake. They will come to the BOD as soon as they hear the result of their application and will follow any directions of the BOD. A. Connor made a motion to modify the agenda to move the discussion of this item from New Business to the end of the Public Comment section. B. Pelegano

seconded, all approved, and the motion passed.

Linda Wagner, 204 Deepwood, Lebanon

She has been a resident here all her life and is concerned that there are more weeds this year than usual. She has been observing the weeds in the cove near her property (north of Lollipop) and going toward the islands. Will the ALD do some sort of weed treatment late in the season?

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood, Hebron

1. The ROWs and beaches are looking good. The Elsmere ROW has a dead tree, and Lollipop Beach has a few issues with some birch trees. She got a quote from a tree service, who can't schedule the work until September. She will get some other quotes and see if we can get this work done sooner. A. Connor will contact the abutting neighbor before the work begins. 2. Main Beach still has some trash that needs to be removed. 3. There are weeds growing up through the landscaped bushes at the edge of the parking lot at Main Beach, which should be removed.

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

She asked when she would be able to address changes in her comments from the May BOD meeting minutes. M. Paul offered to address that under item D.

Discussion and Possible Action (Per Amended Agenda) At this time, M. Paul addressed the owners of the property at 190 Deepwood. He read the section of the ALD ordinances regarding altering waterfronts. He stated that the District has spent quite a bit of money in the past dredging sand from the lake. Even if they get a permit from Inland Wetlands to add sand to the lake, we have an ordinance that says it is not permitted without Board approval. The homeowners will present the BOD with the results of their Inland Wetlands application at the BOD meeting in July.

- D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** A. Stec moved to approve the May 16, 2018 minutes, seconded by F. Hoisl. After a brief discussion, the motion was amended to approve the minutes with the insertion of the words "reported that she called the CT Labor Dept and was advised" as part of J. Clark's second comment. Four members approved, B. Pelegano opposed, and the motion was approved.
- E. Receive President's Report:** M. Paul thanked the Board of Directors, and this current group in particular. He stated what a pleasure it's been to serve on the Board, and as president, and thinks the BOD will do a great job going forward.
- F. Receive Treasurer's Report:**
1. A. Connor distributed the May financial statements and is anticipating that we are going to overspend the budget by a small amount by the end of the fiscal year. We have not overspent as of May 31, but there will be some large expenditures in June: the portable toilets, security fees, and the annual fee for the Tax Collector's software program. Although as of the end of May we met our revenue budget totals (partially due to the docks selling out, and interest income), we have done a lot of repairs this year – on the plunge pools, the ROWs and the beaches. The District also took over a

couple of properties, which, even though it was to the District's benefit, led to incurring unbudgeted expenses.

G. Receive Tax Collector's Report:

1. The Tax Collector's report will be posted on the website. 2. E. Curtin reported that liens and releases were filed with the towns. There were 33 liens filed in Lebanon and 33 in Hebron. 3. Since the budget was approved at the May 19, 2018 annual meeting, the District mill rates have been set: Hebron, 1.38 and Lebanon, 2.80. The tax bills will most likely be mailed out around June 22.

H. Receive Clerk's Report:

1. Email blasts sent since last BOD meeting: Annual meeting results on 5/22, another sent on 5/24 with Memorial Day reminders, another sent 6/8 looking for Finance Committee members. 2. E. Bowen contacted the Douglas Library to thank them for the use of the Community Room for the Annual Meeting and to ask to reserve the room for next year. Their schedule isn't out yet, so she will contact them again in September.

I. Presentation of Correspondence: 1. E. Bowen had an email exchange with a resident about a found barrel from last fall. Drew Gibson agreed to store the barrel behind the clubhouse until someone claims it. I'll send out another email blast around 4th of July, and if there are no takers, I'll contact the resident who wanted it for a rain barrel. 2. Email from Joyce Clark, wanting the minutes of the May 16 BOD meeting amended. 3. Email from Ames Rd resident, asking when the brush on Ames Rd (where the tree fell a few months ago) would be removed. 4. Message from a resident asking how to contact security due to loud, vulgar music on Main beach. 5. A. Stec was contacted by a resident wondering what to do about another resident taking the space that they had been using on the rack at Ames Rd when they took their boat out on the lake. 5. M. Paul received an email from a resident looking for permission to hold a party for a dozen kids on Sunday July 1 from 1-4 at Main Beach. He will respond with approval. 6. The BOD received a copy of a letter sent by a Deepwood Dr resident to the town of Lebanon about a tree at the intersection of their property and the town shoulder, which they said should be removed. Two BOD members noted that the town is in the process of removing it as of 6/20. 7. The BOD received a copy of a letter and photos sent to a Deepwood Dr resident from the Lebanon Inland Wetlands Commission, stating that, based on a complaint and a visit to the site, the homeowners were requested to appear at the IW Commission meeting in June. 8. A Connor responded to a request from the town of Lebanon's bond counsel to confirm the taxes collected and if any bonds were issued or outstanding.

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

1. Lake health: 1. Another Lake Health Committee meeting is coming up in early July. 2. The District will be adding some plunge pools during the next fiscal year, but we are waiting to get further information and data results from limnologist Dr. Knoecklein. In his recent report, Dr. K made no recommendations for us other than not dredging and continue testing. F. Hoisl is scheduled to meet with him Friday June 22. In preparation for the meeting, the committee sent Dr. K a list of questions. 3. B. Pelegano & F. Hoisl interviewed another limnologist and got a proposal that they will discuss with the Lake Health Committee. A. Stec asked if the new company will be using the same lab we are currently using for testing,

as the results are slow to come in. 4. The ALD got a new lens for the dissolved oxygen monitor and did measurements with the old and new equipment, thinking that the original equipment might have been giving us unreliable readings. However, the test results were pretty similar. 5. F. Hoisl addressed the resident comments that there are lots of weeds in the lake. We've treated three or four times in the last 10 years, but have no plans to treat this year. We need information from a lake scientist about the overall health of the lake system before we do anything. 6. F. Hoisl contacted the DEEP and got the name of someone (in Burlington, CT) to do a fish survey. They will be available no later than the fall of 2019.

2. Lebanon roads: 1. A. Stec reported that she got quotes to do the remaining work on the private roads: pothole repairs for \$2100, re-crowning for \$8,000, totaling \$10,100. She will ask the contractor to get it done as part of this year's budget. 2. She continues to wait for Jay Tuttle from the town of Lebanon to schedule a date to do a walk-around to look at the culverts and catch basins. 3. A. Connor asked at what point do we start talking about snow contract. It was answered that it will be put on the agenda for July.
3. Security, Boats: 1. Our security company called B. Pelegano and was pleased with resident response to the email blast reminding people to wear their passes. 2. B. Pelegano reported that trash and dog poop bags are being thrown in the portable toilets at the beaches. It is becoming a problem for the company that cleans them weekly, and if the situation doesn't improve, the company will remove the toilets. He suggested that we send out an email blast reminding people to please not throw trash or dog poop bags in the toilets.
4. Communications: The newsletter was published in May and is on the website. It has been handed out at the lake pass distribution days, but we still have a lot of copies left over. We will make adjustments in the quantity ordered next year.
5. Dam/ Duck pond: F. Hoisl and B. Pelegano will look at repairing/replacing the fence this weekend. It will be completed before the July BOD meeting. A. Connor will forward a list of handymen that she received from a resident to F. Hoisl.
6. Beaches and ROWs: 1. M. Dagon reported on the beaches and ROWs (see Agenda item C) earlier in the meeting. 2. Discussion ensued regarding some brush and trash removal at the dam property on Ames Road. B. Pelegano made a motion to hire BSA Landscaping for this work, F. Hoisl seconded. In addition, it was reported that a resident had raked up a broken up barley straw bale into a pile at Cove Rd. The motion was amended to include the work at both Ames and Cove Rd. All approved.
7. Finance, docks & rentals: 1. All the docks have been rented this year. 2. The Finance Committee met on May 30 and will probably meet again in August. 3. The ALD received its insurance renewal – the Finance Committee discussed the renewal and sent it back in. This year's premium will be \$8001, an increase of about \$500. 4. The Finance Committee has recommended that the District wait

until 2019 to do hire a CPA firm to do another AUP, and then continue to do it every other year. 5. The Finance Committee has recommended that the BOD set up an ad-hoc committee to determine how best to spend the money that we have put in the 2018-19 budget for the shed, new signs, and fence.

8. Calendar & tasks:

The task list was reviewed. 1. A. Connor will ask BSA Landscaping if he installed the silt fence at the “illegal” beach in the NE Cove, and if so, to remove it as it has fallen into the lake. If not, we will have to contact the property owner. 2. There is a lone buoy in the water at Main beach – B. Pelegano will remove it this weekend. 3. F. Hoisl will talk to Drew Gibson about replacing/repairing the sign at Main Beach.

K. Old Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

1. The question remains about whether or not the road known as Mike's Place in Lebanon is a District property or road. A. Connor will go to the town and look at the deeds of the surrounding properties in hopes of clarification.
2. The volunteer liability waiver has been approved by ALD Atty Adam Cohen. At the beginning of each new fiscal year, July 1, everyone who has been asked to do something for the District without pay must sign it. Residents will be able to download it from the website, then sign and email it back to the Clerk for our files.
3. A. Connor made a motion to add an item to the agenda – the recently-acquired ALD property on Cove Road. B. Pelegano seconded, all approved, and the motion passed. 1. Soil scientist Wes Wentworth will do a field study on this property and give us an answer in July about whether or not it is wetlands. 2. BSA Landscaping capped the well on said property.

L. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action (One item moved to C Above):

F. Hoisl discussed the letter the BOD received from the town of Lebanon about the property at 338 Deepwood. The property owners added 25 cubic yards of fill to their waterfront, thereby filling in the lake, without approval from the BOD or the town Inland Wetlands Commission. The town subsequently instructed them to remove it. The owners will comply with the order when the District lowers the lake in the fall.

M. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting: Snow plowing contract

N. Adjournment: A. Stec moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 PM. 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.