

## **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

### **MINUTES**

June 17, 2015 7:00PM

ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, CT 06231

[www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org)

#### **A. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:**

D. O'Brien, R. DeCormier, D. Moorcroft, M. Paul, F. Hoisl, L. Lenti, C. Lenti

Absent: D. Martin

#### **B. Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P. M.

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

Shauna Hatch, 12 Lake Road, Amston, CT

Recently moved from Deepwood Dr. to Lake Road and wants to be a part of the ALD District.

Comment: Part of your property is in the district. It could be enough to be included in the Amston Lake District.

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood Dr., Amston, CT

The ice cream trucks are parking in the beach parking lots. Are they permitted on ALD property? They could be a liability. Don't know if they have insurance. They could park on the street.

This winter/spring I put 45 flyers on unidentified cars. Only 4 called back to say they were residents. Two dumpsters were removed from the beaches, and various trucks were asked to leave. A sewage leak in Lebanon was repaired by the town.

The Cove ROW chain was removed recently, the hooks were bent and tire tracks led to the water as if someone drove down the ROW and launched a boat.

The Duck Pond dam area (water side) accumulated much silt and debris and may hinder the flow of water. Also the stream is full of cat-o-nine tails. It needs to be cleaned out.

Gail Golden, 203 Deepwood Dr., Amston, CT

Concerning the ice cream truck. It has parked on the parking lots for many years.

Whatever is decided it should be the same for both trucks.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr., Amston,CT

Cars go flying down the street. It's not a bad idea to have trucks park in the parking lots. They can drive in, sell the ice cream and then leave. It might be safer for the children.

Marge Nichols,18 Spafford Rd, Lebanon, CT

At Lollipop, there are several "no parking" signs on the street. The ice cream trucks go by too fast. Need to talk to both venders.

Michelle Bareis, 151DeepwoodDr, Lebanon,CT

On Ryan Terrace, to the left, there is a nest of bees. They should be removed.

Also, when Baldie does Ryan Terrace, he's only there for a very short period of time.

Paula Verrier, 97 Hillcrest Dr., Hebron, CT

What is the follow up on the deeds, property owners of the board members?

Comment: That has been taken care of to the satisfaction of the lawyer and the board.

Both are property owners.

Bob Blackmore, 5 Rondaly Road, Amston,CT

Asked for verification of the section 8 of the bylaws.

Comment: Voters give the board guidance but the board has the final vote. The board represents the community and will usually follow the vote of the residents on what to spend or not.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr., Amston, CT

Seems as if there are no bass in the lake. There are too many pickerel. Have people been sneaking in and taking the fish? Doesn't care for the catfish.

Comment: Catfish are predators of certain fish that produce algae. DEEP was against putting smallmouth bass in the lake last year because of a drop off of smallmouth's in other CT lakes.

Kevin Grady, 199 Deepwood Dr., Amston, CT

Suggests that when a sample is taken at H-11, it is done when it is raining heavily. That is the best time to do the testing.

Comment: Can check with D. Martin about the testing.

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

M. Paul made a motion to approve the May 20,2015 minutes. F. Hoisl seconded. All approved except D. Moorcroft abstained.

**E. Receive and Act upon the Clerk's report:**

Chatham Health tested the water in the lake on 5/27. The Uncas Health district will test Lebanon in the future.

Phase 1 of the H-11 study was completed by Joe Polulech.

Tax information was sent to two newspapers. Will send information to the papers two more times.

**F. Presentation of Correspondence and Communications:**

Email was received from Richard and Katherine Begin concerning the blight at 189 Deepwood Dr., Amston. They wanted to inform the board before contacting the owners.

**G. Receive Presidents' Report:**

Update on insurance: We are paying \$5000 for 1 million dollars of insurance. It would be \$7000 for 2 million and \$10,000 for 5 million. Go with 5 Million, but check on the cost of 10 million.

Concerning sinking funds: one invasive plant (water chestnut) was found and removed. Maybe brought in by a bird. Need to inform residents of invasive plants (with pictures) on the website. A motion was read by R. DeCormier:

I move that the board establish a permanent fund to retain money specifically intended to pay for the eradication of invasive weeds. The amount of the funding should reflect the estimate we received from ACT which was \$125,000. This funding will be established from the free cash in the current General Fund. The money in this fund is strictly to be used to address the expense of invasive weed eradication and this money may not be used or reallocated for any other purpose. Revocation and/or defunding of this fund will need to be discussed during an annual meeting and should be voted upon by the residents.

Seconded by M. Paul. All approved. The motion carries.

Another sinking fund is the rainy day fund. A motion was read by R. DeCormier:

I move that the board establish a permanent "rainy day" fund which will provide a financial safety net for the district. Historically, there has been a cash buffer of approximately 50% of the annual budget so this fund will be managed to retain an ongoing cash level of 50% of the district's annual budget: i.e. excess dollars will be returned to the General Fund and underages will be made up in the following year's annual budget. This funding will be established from the free cash in the current General Fund. The money in this fund is strictly to be used to provide a financial buffer for the District and may be allocated by the Board on items deemed to be significant and unplanned. The money in this fund may not be used or reallocated for planned or routine district expenses. Revocation and/or defunding of this fund will need to be discussed during an annual meeting and should be voted upon by the residents.

Seconded by D. Moorcroft. All approved. The motion carries.

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

Discussion of the balance sheet. We are doing very well.  
See website.

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

We are doing very well in collections. Residents can visit the tax collector's report on the website. May's report is on already. The website will show how the mill rates are derived, the process for delinquencies, etc. A resident who is in arrears can contact the tax collector and make arrangements to pay a lesser amount. This usually helps the situation.

**J. Receive Lake Management Report:**

Nothing to report.

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

Security

Thank you to Carl wool for doing the winter/spring security.

Summer security has begun for Saturday and Sunday. Two residents check the beaches during the week. Discussion of security on the ROW's. Right now we are relying on residents near the ROW's to keep watch. People sneak onto the ROW's more than at the beaches. We need random spot checks at the ROW's

Suggestion: We need to meet all the security people. We can invite them to a board meeting.

Concerning the dry fire hydrants. We need to measure the water depth in certain areas. The installation, etc. will be paid for by the Fire Department. There is no time limit on when this would be completed.

Dam

The weir boards would need to be replaced in the next year or two. The Duck Pond situation hasn't changed but a plan needs to be developed. The brush, etc. left by the beaver needs to be removed.

Dock rentals: 13 are full. There are 3 available (1 at Lollipop, 2 at the Main Beach).

Storm Drains

Phase 1 of the H-11 project has been completed. D. O'Brien will speak to the town about a plan. K. Grady spoke with the town about more testing with heavy rain. L. Lenti will chair the committee and work with D. O'Brien.

Boats and Rafts

Nothing to report

Mooring: Work is moving forward on a draft of a motion to bring to the board. A clause in the by laws concerning mooring is very vague. Some boats can be grandfathered (moored for years) as long as there are no safety issues. This needs more discussion. Since a mooring committee has been formed, they could help settle issues and make recommendations.

#### Weeds and Algae

Thank you to Al Fichtel for finding the invasive plant (water chestnut). Lollipop cove area cannot be sprayed because of the well located in that area.

#### Communications

The pass distribution went very well. 138 residents received their passes. There are 5 more dates to pick up passes (a list of dates are located on the clubhouse door). Passes can also be obtained by mail. A \$5.00 fee and self-addressed envelope is required.

#### Lebanon Roads

The mission statement is in the newsletter. The Water Co. will repair some pipe and water main issues. The RFP for snowplowing will go out soon. Some potholes have been filled. The committee will get estimates for repairing the roads that are in the worst condition. They are drafting an RFP for this issue and will present it to the board in July. They are also contacting other lakes (such as Red Cedar Lake) for ideas and information.

#### Beach and ROW Update

Spraying of weeds and Poison Ivy has begun. A rock has been placed at Lollipop to deter trucks from backing a trailer/boat in the water. The leaves at Cove Row have been cleaned out.

We need a plan for Meadowbrook ROW.

And, should large rocks be placed at Cove ROW near the chain which was taken down and hooks bent when a vehicle drove down to the water to launch a boat?

#### Calendar and Tasks

We are up to date.

#### **L. Old Business:**

Nothing to report.

**M. New Business:**

A motion was made by D. Moorcroft to increase the Treasurer's and Clerk's pay by \$1000 per year starting in July 2015. Seconded by F. Hoisl. All approved. R. DeCormier and C. Lenti abstained. Motion passed.

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

Nothing to add.

**O. Adjournment:**

D Moorcroft made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by M. Paul. All approved.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Claire Lenti, Clerk  
Amston Lake District