

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

May 15, 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 7:01 P.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, T. LaMontagne, N. Nurge, M. Dagon, A. Stec, B. Lederer.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

B. Pelegano moved to approve the April 17, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by B. Lederer, and the motion was unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. L. Bowen followed up with resident Lisa Salerno about allowing pontoons boats to remain in the water until Columbus Day. The boat slip rental agreement will now reflect a removal date of October 15. 2. A portion of a loose dock was reported in the NE Cove. We will look into having it removed. 3. A photo of the weeds in the NE Cove was received and forwarded to the Lake Health Committee. 4. Resident from Ames Rd says we need more boat slips. 5. Resident who has a pontoon boat but was not selected for a pontoon boat slip in the lottery suggested adding more large slips. 6. F. Hoisl was contacted by the Chatham Health District, who wanted to install a SOLaware display (a sun index and sunscreen dispenser) at Main Beach. It was decided not to move forward with it this year, but will reconsider next year. 7. Resident says that drainage ditch at the corner of Deepwood and Cove seems to be filling up. A. Stec will investigate. 8. The ALD attorney contacted F. Hoisl to tell him that an ALD resident contacted him and led him to believe she was acting under the direction of the BOD. She recommended he send a breach of contract letter to a contractor that was working with the District. F. Hoisl stated that residents are not allowed to contact the District's attorney, nor pretend that they represent the Board and give directions. Since the Board didn't authorize the attorney to do this work, and this resident is not his client, he cannot bill her and won't be paid for his work. If a resident believes our attorney needs to be contacted, they must contact the BOD and request that the Board contact him. 9. B. Pelegano responded to a resident looking for his boat that was removed from a ROW last fall. 10. B. Pelegano responded to two emails from people upset about the errant dock at Cove ROW. An attempt has been made to remove it but it is stuck in the muck. They will make another attempt, and if unsuccessful, will hire a contractor to cut it up and then bill and fine the homeowner.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Geese control: Resident Jeff Arpin reported that at the Lake Health Committee meeting it was discussed that whether you use chemical control or other means, the geese will just move to the next area. The best way to control them is to not feed them. Bird feeders may also draw in the geese, so residents are advised to

keep feeders away from the water. Joyce Clark said the DEEP website has other things you can do to keep them away, but they will just move to your neighbor's property. She has sighted a set with six babies this spring.

2. Rogue dock: As stated above, resident Al Fichtel will try to remove the dock at Cove ROW one more time this weekend. If it can't be removed, the ALD will hire a contractor to remove and break it up, and the bill and fine the owner, who has not responded to our letters.
3. Pontoon boat docking: As stated above, the removal date for the pontoon boats has been extended until October 15.
4. Adding ALD docks: There is a resident with an 18' pontoon boat who was not allotted a pontoon boat slip in the lottery this year and would like the District to add additional dock spaces. F. Hoisl stated that we purchased additional docks a few years ago so that we could accommodate larger boats. There are 17 spots in total, 4 for pontoon boats. Dockmaster Dave Arnold reported that there are two small slips still available – one at each beach. A. Connor stated that we should make sure that we adequately define the problem – it sounds like only one or two people still want a slip, but it's not a simple answer at this point. There were 1500 boat passes given out last year, with the potential for all those boats to be in the water at once. F. Hoisl suggested that we form a committee, put together a charter and get recommendations from the committee. We need to understand the initial costs and ongoing maintenance. It might have to go to a special meeting since the cost will probably be over \$2500. Currently this resident's boat is in the water on the south side of Lollipop Beach as a temporary solution. Trailering the boat is also an option.
5. Ryan Terrace ROW: B. Lederer presented the revised plans from the engineer. She stated that the problem was that there was erosion from the fall storms, and this ROW is steep and has sand at the waterfront. The goal was to find a solution so that we don't have to deal with this every year. To date, a survey has been done, and she presented the revised engineer's plans to the BOD. She would like the Board to approve that this proposal go before the community at the annual meeting, to allocate up to \$15,000 for this work. She would also like the Board to approve paying \$160 to put in an Inland Wetlands application for the IWC meeting on June 4. She stated that the work wouldn't begin until after Labor Day. Discussion ensued. A. Connor stated that some of the erosion problem was taken care of by clearing out culvert across the street, and that planting grass and better drainage would also help. L. Bowen questioned how disturbing the areas that did not erode during the storms would help with future erosion. A. Stec loves the plan as a resident who uses that ROW, but as a BOD member, wonders about the cost. F. Hoisl would like to see additional contractor quotes before bringing it to a vote. A. Stec moved to approve \$160 to take this plan to the Inland Wetlands Commission, N. Nurge seconded. Discussion ensued. 6 members approved. A. Connor, L. Bowen abstained. Motion carried.

M. Dagon had to leave early, so at this point in the meeting, she reported on the Beaches and ROWs Committee: 1. The committee had a very successful First

Annual Cleanup on May 4, with 20 volunteers. 2. The work to repair Oakland ROW has been completed – however, grass has been planted and the silt fence is still up so they would appreciate if residents didn't use it until the grass comes in. 3. Main & Lollipop Beaches have been raked and will be again before Memorial Day. 4. Two new boat racks have been ordered – one is for Elsmere ROW, the other will be for the Lebanon side, but they are not sure where the greatest need is. 5. The poison ivy will be treated before the end of May.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl went over the few outstanding items for May and June, mostly having to do with communications and the annual meeting preparation. L. Bowen reported that the notice and agenda for the annual meeting have been sent out, and the proposed budget has been posted to the website. The newsletter will be sent to the printer this week in time for handing out at the lake pass distributions. A. Stec ordered and installed signs for the annual meeting, and ordered signs to notify residents of lake pass distribution dates.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Les Parlin, 21 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon

He handed out a booklet from the DEEP about watershed and in-lake management for CT lakes. The BOD agreed that he could hand them out at the boat pass registration days.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

He reported a dead Ash tree on the ROW next to his property with dead limbs hanging over his yard. F. Hoisl will send a note to M. Dagon and ask her to take a look. Al also reported a couple of straw bales at the Cove ROW that are kind of in a wooded area, and not really in the water, and therefore not doing the job for which they were intended.

H. Receive President's Report

1. F. Hoisl stated that although committees allow us to get more done, we need to put charters together for each one. He'd like to start a dam committee, as it needs periodic inspections. He then turned his attention to the annual meeting and the Board had a brief discussion of logistics before moving on to the proposed budget. A. Connor reported that the proposed budget for the Lebanon Roads Committee will be the same as the current year, and they would like to use the unspent money from this year's budget to create new drainage. She reported that the ALD spent less in lake health and security than anticipated this past year, and didn't need the \$40K in surplus funds, so we are proposing to use that again in 2019-2020. The General Fund budget will remain unchanged from the current year, with a proposed budget \$124,700. The budget includes a small 2.5% contingency (<\$3k) so that if a small project or two comes up, we can do it. By proposing no change, she is hoping that the residents will approve the budget. In response to a question, she stated that our Emergency Fund was set up to always be maintained at 50% of the budget.

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

1. A. Connor has issued the March financial statements, which have been posted to

the website. There were no questions asked. She stated that although we still have May and June expenses coming in, as of April 30 the District is \$39,663 underspent, which is why we're going to try use the 40K surplus for the next fiscal year. 2. The Tax Collector's report is also on the website.

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

1. Finance: The Finance Committee has not meet since the last BOD meeting so there is no report.
2. Lake Health: 1. Resident Jeff Arpin stated that he sent the latest test results to AER and they've confirmed that we should continue testing at the same 13 sites. He was pleased that the results from the samples sent to the new lab, Phoenix, came back within a week. 2. Joyce Clark is part of a group within the committee that is collecting information on catch basin depths, where the pipes connect, and where they dump into the lake. There are three areas where they are going to look into detention basins with the engineer. 3. Al Fichtel reported that the DEEP will be doing another fish count on May 23rd. 4. Les Parlin asked if AER noticed a change from past test results, considering that the Lebanon sewers were installed in 2013. If we're not seeing a drop since then, we've got a problem.
3. Beaches and ROWs: See report from M. Dagon under E (5).
4. Security, Boats: 1. Security will be starting Memorial Day weekend, and will be seven days a week. 2. At some point soon we will announce a boat auction for the boats that were abandoned by their owners last fall. The people who still haven't paid will not be eligible to receive boat passes this year.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. A. Stec reported that the catch basins were cleaned last month. 2. Pothole and general repairs will be done at beginning of next week. 3. There is a drainage project in the works for the next fiscal year, and she is looking for input from the Lake Health Committee.
6. Signs: N. Nurge reported that two new covered bulletin boards have been installed, one at Main Beach, one at Lollipop.
7. Communications: A. Stec asked the committees to let her know if they have any content they'd like posted to the website.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

No new business.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

N. Nurge moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m., seconded by A. Stec and the

motion was 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.