

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES

November 15, 2017 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:

F. Hoisl, A. Connor, L. Bowen, M. Kelly, B. Pelegano

Absent: M. Paul, A. Stec, M. Grydon, L. Lenti

F. Hoisl, Vice President, presided in M. Paul's stead.

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

Carl Wool 182 Deepwood, Hebron

1. He disputed the accuracy of the October meeting minutes and believes that all of his work was authorized by Mark Paul. 2. He questioned if there is a decision or response to his email to the Board about the water level, which is currently coming over the spillway. He suggested in that email that the metal guards in front of the weir boards need to be cleaned out. Although weeds are less than normal this year, it needs to be cleaned out every other day for a couple of days. 3. He stated that from now on he is unwilling to perform any lake tasks on a volunteer basis.

Roger Krasusky 26 Hillcrest Drive, Hebron

Stated that his trailer is broken so he can't remove his boat from Main beach. He has moved it so that he can weed-wack around it, but wants permission to keep the boat there unless someone can find him a trailer to pull it out. Brandon will reach out to a resident that owns another Hobie to perhaps lend him a trailer.

Joyce Clark – 6 Deepwood, Lebanon

As a follow-up to a previous meeting's discussion regarding ALD contractors, she doesn't have a problem with any of them specifically. It's not "who" is doing the work, it's that some of our contractors are uninsured. Tomorrow night is a meeting of the (Lebanon) WPCA, regarding a reduction in the sewer bills. Is there any follow-up to M. Paul's plan to meet with Lebanon town officials re: creating some rapport? Is anyone from the board going to the WPCA meeting?

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

M. Kelly made a motion to amend the October 18, 2017 minutes for clarification by adding the sentence under "Security": "Carl Wool submitted a revised bill and was paid for "gate opening and closing and other tasks thru 9/30, not 'security'." The revised bill has been paid. Seconded by B. Pelegano. All approved.

E. Receive President's Report:

No President's report as M. Paul was not present.

F. Receive Treasurer's Report:

1. A. Connor distributed and reviewed the October 2017 monthly financial report. It will be posted on the website. 2. F. Hoisl received an invoice from the lake scientist, Dr. Knocklein, for the water testing that was done this summer. He will forward to A. Connor. She will pay Dr. K for work performed to date including water testing.

G. Receive Tax Collector's Report:

1. The Tax Collector's report will be posted on the website. 2. Of the four accounts turned over to Attorney Cohen for collection, two have been paid in full, one is expected to be paid shortly, and the other might be headed toward a tax sale. 3. E. Curtin will post notices for the second installment due date at the town halls, as well as on our community bulletin boards. This complies with the CT statutes and saves the District the cost of newspaper notices.

H. Receive Clerk's Report:

1. The first email blast using the new MailChimp program was sent to almost 700 residents on October 28th with a reminder about removing boats from the beaches and ROWs. Another one was sent Nov 11th seeking members for a Lake Health committee. Others will be sent on a regular basis. 2. Dates for the 2018 BOD meetings were distributed to Board members last month. B. Pelegano made a motion to approve the dates, A. Connor seconded, and all approved. L. Bowen will send the dates to the ALA to reserve the clubhouse and then post them on the website. 3. L. Bowen got a copy of Lake Williams' file retention schedule, and will use that as a stepping stone for our upcoming December discussion about what to retain in our permanent files.

I. Presentation of Correspondence:

1. Three emails were received from residents regarding the placement of the new signs at the ROWs. 2. One resident emailed the Board, wondering if Dr. Knocklein had done the lake plant survey and the NE cove assessment. 3. Another resident emailed and suggested designating specific racks for either paddleboats, or kayaks. 4. A few residents emailed the Board regarding the construction happening at 169 Deepwood in Hebron, and wondering if the contractor had done enough to prevent runoff into the lake during the heavy rains a few weeks ago. 5. Discussion ensued about possibly putting a tab on the website for FAQ's to lessen the number of emails that the Board answers, and to avoid duplicating our efforts.

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

1. Dr. Knocklein completed the lake plant survey on Thursday, Oct 19th and was accompanied by BOD member M. Kelly. Dr. Knocklein has also sent us all the raw data from the deepwater testing done this summer. Discussion ensued about his responsiveness to our timetable. F. Hoisl and M. Kelly offered to contact him and to look at the proposals we received from several other lake scientists. 2. F. Hoisl has so far received 4 responses to the email blast looking for Lake Health committee members, which he finds encouraging.

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

1. Lebanon roads: Nothing to report as A. Stec was not present.
2. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano took photos of 63 boats remaining on the beaches and ROWs after Nov.1, some with no Amston Lake tags at all. He called or sent an email to each owner, reminding them of our ordinances. On Nov 18th the ALD will begin moving the boats to the storage area, at a cost of \$15-25 per boat. If an owner wants their boat returned, they can reimburse the BOD for the fee, or the boats will be auctioned off in the spring.
3. Communications: 1. B. Pelegano presented a sample of the Welcome letter, and discussed how to deliver it to new residents. A. Connor will ask our tax collector, E. Curtin, about the best way to get new residents' names on an ongoing basis. 2. It was agreed that it would be problematic to send email blasts for the ALA with the new email blast system – and could cause further confusion between the two entities.
4. Dam/ Duck pond: F. Hoisl spoke to our dam engineer, Karl Acimovic, to ask if he knew of any companies that insure dams, or if it is even unusual to not have dam insurance. They also discussed what to do about the weir boards (to lower the lake) – we can't pull another one at this time because the water is still spilling over the top. F. Hoisl will be at the lake on Saturday to rake out the grate area, and possibly pull the next weir board, if the water is low enough.
5. Beaches and ROWs: M. Dagon sent an email with several job requests for the ROWs. It was decided among the Board members that the work could wait until spring. She also suggested that the Board send out an email blast asking for resident volunteers to rake weeds and leaves out and away from the water's edge at the beaches and ROWs.
6. Finance, docks & rentals:
 1. The task list that F. Hoisl and B. Pelgano presented last month totals approximately 99 hours of work annually. If all of it were done by a paid employee or contractor at \$15 per hour, it would be \$1500. They will feed this information to the Finance committee for budgeting purposes.
 2. The Finance committee met last week. They reviewed the October financial report. They recommended that the Board begin planning the year-end procedures vis a vis hiring an independent accounting firm as they did this past year.
 3. A. Connor distributed an analysis of the activity in the Main Dam Fund since 2002 which resulted in a deficit balance in the Main Dam fund. A. Connor made a motion that the Board authorize the transfer of \$12,774 from the General Fund to the Main Dam Special Revenue Fund to eliminate that deficit and return the Main Dam Fund balance to zero. Seconded by B. Pelegano. All approved.
7. Calendar & tasks: E. Bowen will send out email blasts asking for volunteer weed and leaf rakers, and a reminder for Lebanon roads residents during snow events. She will also remove all remaining items left on the District bulletin boards.

L. Old Business---Discussion and Possible Action:

Nothing to report.

M. New Business----Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Connor made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing contractor performance, B. Pelegano seconded. Executive session began at 9:13 P.M. and ended at 9:30. No action was taken.

N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

Nothing new to add at this time.

O. Adjournment:

A. Connor made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by B. Pelegano. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Liz Bowen, Clerk
Amston Lake District