

## **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

November 14, 2018 7:00 P.M.

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

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

### **A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

### **B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors**

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

### **C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

B. Lederer moved to approve the October 17, 2018 minutes, seconded by M. Dagon, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **D. Presentation of Correspondence**

1. Email received from resident in response to boat removal blast, hoping that the two catamarans at Main beach will be removed this year. 2. Resident questioning if we got results from the electrofishing survey. 3. Certified letter that was sent to the resident that did the Lollipop beach damage was returned unsigned. 4. The entire BOD received emails from two residents who wanted to go on record with their concerns about the future use of Ryan Terrace and Oakland ROWs. F. Hoisl stated that there is an active rumor mill that is blowing things out of proportion and recommended that residents should contact a BOD member or come to the monthly meetings to get the facts. 5. A. Connor received the new property assessments from the town of Lebanon and has a meeting next week to get an explanation of the process used to calculate the new assessments.

### **E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Lollipop Beach damage. A second letter was sent to the resident that did the damage after the first, certified, letter was not picked up. If the resident continues to ignore the request, the matter will go to the ALD attorney for collection.
2. 190 Deepwood, Lebanon. The owner of this property apologized for putting sand in the lake, as they weren't aware it was a violation of the ordinances. He explained that the weeds and muck made it difficult for them to get in and out of the water. The sand they added was about 10' around the dock, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of their property. The Board plans to go into executive session to discuss the issue of the sand that was put into the lake.
3. 338 Deepwood, Lebanon. The owners filled in their shoreline earlier this year, and the town ordered them to remove the fill by the end of the year. The owner has not been able to complete this work because of all the rain, which has left the lake water level unusually high. F. Hoisl will follow up with the owner.

## **F. Task List and Action Items**

1. F. Hoisl asked ALD dockmaster Dave Arnold whether or not we should float the docks out for the season. Mr. Arnold believes we should, so F. Hoisl hired a contractor for that work. 2. Resident Jeff Arpin installed Caution tape on the stairs at the Ryan Terrace ROW several weeks ago. 3. The Lake Health Committee was hoping to present a plan to remove the Phragmites from the NE Cove, but they haven't met yet, so it will be discussed at the December BOD meeting. 4. M. Dagon asked if the Lake Health Committee would take over the plunge pool responsibility from the Beaches and ROWs Committee. She reported that this fall only the Cove ROW and Lollipop beach plunge pools have been cleaned and BASE is too busy to do the others. She will check to see if there's another contractor who can do it in November because it needs to be done each spring and fall.

## **G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners**

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

He reported that the water is still 3.5 inches above the spillway. If it freezes hard and ice gets into the seawall, he thinks it would be best to put the first weir board back in. He will keep an eye on it. The Beaches and ROWs Committee got six estimates for the repair of Oakland and Ryan Terrace ROWs and they all came back with similar ideas. He believes we need a system to deal with this quickly.

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Dr., Lebanon

She presented the current RiverEast News, which has an article that addresses a ruptured sewer line at Lake Pocotopaug, and triggers her frustration with the condition of the NE Cove. She says that no maintenance plan was put in place after the 2010 dredging, and the DEEP has confirmed the presence of an invasive weed. She mentioned several historic indicators of the condition of the cove, and addressed the Board this summer, saying there is a need to acquire a determination about the current health of the cove. Resident Al Fichtel said he tested the NE Cove this summer, but doesn't have the results. The ALD will have the year-end test results from Dr. Knoecklein in early 2019, but F. Hoisl will contact him shortly for the NE Cove results. F. Hoisl said this will be discussed with AER at the next Lake Health Committee meeting. Resident Carl Wool said that in 2009, pre-sewers, the septic systems for most of the houses in the NE Cove had a dye test done, and no leaks were discovered.

Bob Woerle, 24 Oakland Rd, Hebron

He stated that he had heard some rumors about changes to the Oakland ROW. F. Hoisl answered that it was best to get information from the Board and not from the rumor mill. He thanked Mr. Woerle for coming to the meeting to get information.

Bonnie Morin, 14 Kellys Corner, Lebanon

She stated that she saw an email saying that one or more ROWs would be closed. E. Bowen replied that she personally composes and sends out every email blast for the District and that no such email was sent by her.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Rd, Hebron

In follow-up to Joyce Clark's earlier comments, he stated that the Ostrager property in the NE cove has not hooked up to the sewers and should have their septic system tested. A. Connor will follow up with the Lebanon WPCA to see which properties have not hooked up to the sewers.

Tammie Foster, 14 Hillsdale Rd, Hebron

Stated that she doesn't mind moving her catamaran off the beach but why are some people allowed to leave their boats? The last few years, there has been another catamaran left over the winter. She says these boats are not easy to move and wonders why they now need to be moved every year, as they aren't in the way of anything. F. Hoisl replied that he's been on the BOD since 2012, and residents have been asked to remove their boats each year. We can't make exceptions.

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Dr, Lebanon

She passed out pictures of people enjoying the ROWs and read aloud a letter she had written to the Board extolling the positive aspects of the ROWs. A petition asking for terracing was submitted to the BOD several years ago, and she would like the Ryan Terrace ROW to be cleared the entire width of the property.

Sylvain Morin, 14 Kellys Corner, Lebanon

He stated that only 23' of the Ryan Terrace ROW is being used. A group of residents who use that ROW had a meeting with F. Hoisl and is still waiting for a response to their requests. Morin said it seems that there is a problem with people who are waterfront vs. non-waterfront.

F. Hoisl replied that we are all here for one purpose – to protect the lake. No preferential treatment will be given to any ROW. The BOD doesn't want to spend taxpayer money on a temporary fix and is waiting for recommendations from the Beaches and ROWs Committee. We are working to engage the contractors and limnologists in putting together a plan to solve the erosion issues.

T. LaMontagne stated that if there is a problem at the beaches and ROWs with people pulling their boats up and leaving them there, others just have to ask them to move them. We all have a responsibility to know the rules.

Dave Bareiss, 151 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

He said that it's been years that they've been asking to redesign the Ryan Terrace ROW and wonders how long this will take?

#### **H. Receive President's Report**

F. Hoisl will cede his time to A. Connor, as he anticipates that we will need the time later for the Beaches and ROWs Committee discussion.

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

1. A. Connor passed out the financial reports and briefly summarized them. There were no questions and they will be posted to the website. 2. In the interest of full disclosure, she reported that in October she made a journal entry to move money from one account to another but never actually moved the money online, so when the District credit card bill was paid, we were charged an overdraft fee. She will ask the bank to

reverse the fee. 3. A. Connor reported that last Monday the site work was done at Main beach for the new ALD shed, and Tuesday Nov 20 the shed will be delivered. 4. E. Curtin emailed the Tax Collector's report to the BOD before the meeting and it has been posted on the website. In December, tax notices will go up in the town halls regarding the January installments due for the current tax year.

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

1. Finance: The Finance Committee did not meet this month but is hoping to meet in December.
2. Lake Health: The Lake Health Committee also did not meet this month but will be meeting in two weeks. At their next meeting the prospective new limnologist (AER) will be present, and they will dedicate half the meeting to a Q&A. The District has not yet received the results of the bathymetry study from AER.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. The leaves are being raked up and out of the water at the ROWs and are contracted to be picked up by Baldi. 2. The two trees at Elsmere will be removed November 20 or 21, and there are two more at Francis ROW that need to be removed. 3. The brush at the Main dam needs to be cleared, per state regulations. 4. The committee met with six contractors regarding repairs to the damage done by the heavy rains at Ryan Terrace and Oakland ROWs. Ten of the committee members reviewed the proposals, noting that many of the contractors had similar ideas: needing bigger and deeper drainage pipes at both locations, basically upgrading what is currently in place. Discussion ensued about the options, as the committee wants to start on the work immediately. B. Pelegano wanted it noted that instead of fixing the swim areas right now when no one is going to use them, he wants the bigger picture looked at first – fixing the ROWs from the top of the street down. If that is not rectified, we will continue to spend money repairing these ROWs. The town of Lebanon should take responsibility for opening up the storm drains. It was pointed out to the committee that before we can approve any repairs, the Board will need to look at drawings, and understand what obligations we have with town as far as permitting.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

Regarding the erosion control discussion – Fichtel stated that there are 105 waterfront lots on the lake. Most of them have grass frontages and none of them wash out. If you plant grass on the ROWs down to the water's edge, they won't wash out and it will be much less expensive than the solutions being presented.

Kathie Garvie, 195 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

She asked if we're not repairing these two ROWs right away, can we install hay bales and silt fences in the meantime? Also, the town of Lebanon should help us by putting in some kind of a berm to divert the water. She stated that when there was a similar situation with stormwater runoff in Hebron, a group of residents asked for help and the town complied.

4. Security, Boats: B. Pelegano and his son spent more than six hours removing 23 boats from the beaches and ROWs, after the November 1 deadline passed. B. Pelegano reported that he received a few emails from residents thinking that their boats had been stolen. The estimated cost for the work by Joseph Pelegano is \$600; B. Pelegano will not charge ALD for his time. Letters will be sent to the scofflaws, charging them for the removal, so there should be no net cost to the District.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. A. Stec reported that she received quotes for tree removal on the Lebanon roads – however, so far no one can do it until spring. so she will continue to look for a contractor that can do it sooner. 2. Our plowing contractor is in place for the first snowfall, which is expected tomorrow.
6. Signs: N. Nurge reported that she had removed all the temporary signs from ALD properties, and will have new signage proposals in the spring.
7. Communications: 1. L. Bowen stated that three email blasts had been sent to residents since the last BOD meeting, and another blast reminding residents of the snow and parking rules will be sent tomorrow, in anticipation of the first snowfall. A. Connor moved to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2019, A. Stec seconded, motion unanimously approved.

**K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action**

A. Connor wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving!

**L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting**

A. Connor would like to add a discussion of photographing the lake via drones, for the purpose of monitoring the shoreline and lake quality. It doesn't necessarily need to happen at the next meeting, but she doesn't want us to lose sight of the topic.

**M. Adjournment**

A. Stec moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M., 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.