

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES
November 16, 2016
ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, CT 06231
www.amstonlake.org

A. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

M. Paul, F. Hoisl, R. DeCormier, A. Connor, L. Lenti, C. Lenti
Absent: B. Pelegano, M. Gut

B. Call to Order:

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

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

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Rd, Lebanon, CT

I have a petition from people who use the Ryan Terrace row. We appreciate what the board has done to the rows. There are 30 signatures from residents who enjoy using this row. We would like to move the boulders on the South side, add grass, and fix the stairs for easier access for handicapped people. A railing on the stairs would make access easier. There are also pictures of the row from 30 years ago. Terracing and grass might be better. We understand the concerns of abutting property owners. We also want to keep the trees and we would like to fix the area where the brush was removed between the boat rack and the water.

Janet Garret, 14 Cove Road, Lebanon, CT

The minutes from the last meeting stated that a board member would look at Ryan Terrace row. Did anyone look at it?

Comment: Yes, the president did look at Ryan row. The plan is to meet with the board and residents to discuss the area and decide what will be done to the area in the future.

Sylvan Morin, 14 Kelly's Corner, Lebanon, CT

People who use kayaks and canoes at Ryan Terrace find that moving them from the boat rack to the water is a problem. We would like to make access easier.

Allison Stec, 163 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, CT

I also have concerns about using the right of way and bringing boats to the water.

Dave Bareiss, 151 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, CT

I agree with M. Nichols comments.

Pat Kaneda, 113-116 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, CT

When I use my kayak at Ryan row, I can't get it into the water. Please move the boat rack closer to the water.

Peter Gandelman, 14 Cove Road, Lebanon, CT

I have been going to Ryan Terrace for years. I found this row to be a delightful part of the lake with the company and sense of community found there. Other people find the same enjoyment

there and at other rows since these small areas are places where people can come and enjoy each other's company. These small pocket beaches are a pleasure.

Doug Bowen, 150 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon CT

I want to reaffirm that the board needs to establish exactly what is to be done to the rows, know the cost, and state clearly to residents what the plans are. In the past, there was a \$15,000 investment on Ryan right of way. Now, we need to know any plans, a budget, a time line, and a full review of the process.

Kathy Pasay, 67 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon, CT

I've lived here since 1985. We love Ryan Terrace row. I've carried special needs kids down to the beach which is difficult as it is now. A railing on the stairs would be helpful. It is also difficult to handle bringing a kayak down to the water. It would break my heart if I was not able to use the beach anymore.

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Road, Lebanon, CT

Does the board have a plan? Be sure to notify the residents when to meet to discuss overall plans.

Comment: The board agreed to get a plan and then bring it to the residents. The challenge is to find a compromise which is agreeable to the majority of the residents. Afterwards a decision will be made.

Allison Stec, 162 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, CT

Can information be added to the website in a timely manner?

Comment: This month, there was a delay with the information being put on the website. The company changed to a new email server. Even though any information was supposed to pass through the old email into the new email, apparently, it didn't or it was missed. The company apologized and the problem has been fixed.

D. Approval of Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by R. DeCormier to approve the October 19, 2016 minutes. Seconded by L. Lenti. All approved. Motion passed.

E. Receive President's Report:

For those who don't know, we are being sued in small claims court which has been delayed until January 2017. A resident built a raft and ignited a few fireworks in violation of our ordinances. Another resident claimed that residual debris from the fireworks soiled his house and is suing both the resident and the ALD. The party who shot the fireworks paid a \$100 fine. We believe this issue must be settled by the two residents. The president spoke to the DA stating that we are exempt of responsibility because we are a municipal community. At that time, the magistrate would not accept the claim. The president intends to speak with a lawyer, at some cost, who will write a motion to exclude the ALD from the law suit since we are not liable.

F. Receive Treasurer and Tax Collector's Report:

The tax collector has done an excellent job at collecting taxes and back taxes. Of the six properties turned over to Adam Cohen, all have made significant payments. The second installment of the lake taxes are due January 2017. All the tax collector's reports from this fiscal year will be put on the website soon. The financial balance sheet was handed out to the board.

Note that the Lebanon Road fund has \$27,941 left. We need up to \$18,000 for snow removal this year. After the roadwork is completed, there is not much left for sanding, etc. if needed. When the budget is formed for next year, we will think about the funds required for snow removal and sanding. As of October 31, 2016, the net revenue is \$37,958.

G. Receive Clerk's Report:

The final notice for boat removal was sent, the safe deposit box was opened, a lake health outline was received, the boat docks were moved for winter, and the contract for electricity on the Main Beach was signed.

Reminder—the 2016 December meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of the month. (Dec. 14th)

H. Presentation of Correspondence:

Emails were received from residents concerning Ryan Terrace row as well as some emails concerning leaf blowing of the Lebanon roads and the rights of way.

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

No negative reports on water testing.

The president will speak with the town on which drains were addressed other than those near H-11. Some areas of the lake will need dredging in the future. We need to get estimates, etc. A lake health management plan was sent to the board for review. It needs to be discussed and comments added. We can, also, send the outline to residents for more input and after their review, their comments can be sent to F. Hoisl. The ALD needs to get residents engaged in protecting our lake which is our greatest asset.

J. Consider and Act Upon Standing and Special Committee Reports:

Lebanon Roads

No report.

B. Harlow has recommended some TLC on a few of the Lebanon roads. There are some drainage problems but we are definitely in good shape, and all roads need to be crowned properly.

Pavilion

M. Nichols gave a report on the pavilion. The committee is continuing to contact contractors for estimates on assembly, staining, electric, security, etc. Many contractor's quotes have been received from ALD residents and property owners. Also, the committee is discussing if soil testing might be necessary. Rough estimates are piecemeal and final costs on construction may be \$86,000. More research is needed on the entire project and other estimates for each part are needed.

M. Grydon stated that the committee is collecting many ideas. When a package is put together, vendors will submit proposals. Discussion followed.

Security

Boats left on the racks and rows will be removed soon. Residents will pay for the removal of their boats.

Communications

Our normal communications are fine.

M. Grydon discussed a social platform where residents can comment and is putting together a forum to use on the website.

Dam/ Duck Pond

The weir boards are in place and the lake is lowered to 12 inches. A suggestion was made to lower the lake to 16 inches in the future in order to allow residents to repair walls, if necessary. Comment: Dr. Knoecklein gave council to lower the lake to 12 inches. He stated that it is not a good idea to lower it more than we normally do every year.

Beaches and Rows

We need to discuss plans for Ryan Terrace.

Comment: Some of our rows are used for boating and swimming while others are used for just boating. No sand will be added to the rows this year. The board needs to address what to do, taking into account all needs. We could put a silt fence up at Ryan Terrace row for the winter and continue with plans next spring.

Boats, Docks, and Rafts

A suggestion was made not to move boats from the docks until later in the year (November rather than October) and be consistent with boat removal from the racks. All agreed.

Finance

Discussion on the budget will include dredging, Lebanon roads, etc. We need to know when the dredging projects will be done and what areas could become wetlands. We have a long term plan which will address which course of action is required.

The audit needs to be completed.

Calendar and Tasks

We are on task for November. We need to clean up behind the Main Dam. We could add dirt, grass, fix the slope, etc. Discussion is needed.

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

Nothing to add.

L. New Business—Discussion and Possible Action:

Add ideas on an answering service.

M. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

Keep same agenda for next month.

N. Adjournment:

A motion was made by L. Lenti to adjourn. Seconded by A. Connor. All approved.
The meeting adjourned at 9:00P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by
Claire Lenti, Clerk
Amston Lake Tax District

