

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

October 17, 2018 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 7:00 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. Absent: N. Nurge.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

B. Pelegano moved to approve the September 19, 2018 minutes, seconded by B. Lederer, and the motion was unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. Email from a resident regarding washout on the Lebanon private roads. 2. Email from a resident stating that there are two trees that are dead/dying at Elsmere ROW, and not just the one that is scheduled to be taken down. 3. Email received from CT Portables that the porta potties will be removed November 1st. 4. Email from Phil Chester, Lebanon Town Planner, letting A. Stec know that some ALD residents had contacted him about the condition of the Lebanon roads after the storm.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. ALD Shed. A. Connor purchased an 8X10 wooden shed for the ALD. After walking the site with several BOD members, she submitted a permit application to place the shed near the Main Beach porta potty. The cost of the shed was \$3195 and the site work will be \$605, plus some additional cost to add chicken wire underneath the shed.
2. Lollipop Beach damage. On the advice of the ALD attorney, F. Hoisl sent certified letters to the resident responsible to advise them of their right to a hearing. ALD received no response from the resident nor did he appear at the meeting. Therefore, ALD will assume that he has waived his right to defend his actions. F. Hoisl will send notice of our decision to seek restitution as follows: the cost of cleaning up the area, \$800; plus postage, \$31.40; plus the ALD fine of \$100 per our ordinances; plus whatever legal fees the District incurs. B. Pelegano and F. Hoisl will prepare and send the notice within the next two weeks and the resident will have 30 days to make restitution to the District. A. Stec believes the ALD fines are too low and should be reconsidered when we redo the ordinances in the future.
3. 190 Deepwood, Lebanon. 1. As follow-up to actions by the owners of the property, F. Hoisl attended the Inland Wetlands Commission site walk at the property, where the town ordered the owners to make certain modifications to halt the erosion on their property. After discussion, the BOD agreed it would be

counterproductive to ask the owners to remove the sand they had put in the lake, as it has now drifted away from their waterfront, and would disturb the lake bottom unnecessarily. However, since their actions violated ALD ordinances, F. Hoisl will send a letter to them and ask them to come to the next meeting for a hearing. The BOD will send an email blast to ALD residents informing them that the District is going to be more vigilant about fining for violations of our ordinances.

F. Task List and Action Items

1. Normally the District would start removing the weir boards to lower the lake at this time of the year, but due to the rain, there's still about 3.5 inches of water going over the spillway. We will have to wait until the water levels recede to pull the first board. 2. The question of whether or not to lower the lake, as well as how often, will be brought up with the Lake Health Committee. 3. Discussion ensued about floating the docks out at Main and Lollipop beaches for the winter. F. Hoisl will contact dockmaster Dave Arnold to get his recommendations.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

He will be installing stakes around the Phragmites Australis in the NE Cove tomorrow, so that the Lake Health Committee can monitor it's growth.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Road, Hebron

He claimed that the BOD exceeded its authority in purchasing a shed for more than \$2,500 without obtaining voter approval as per ALD by-laws. Treasurer A. Connor noted that at this year's annual meeting in May, the voters did, in fact, approve a \$7000 line item to buy a shed, new signs, and a fence. Horan commented that he did not recall that. A. Connor also noted that the fence was installed by two board members for the cost of materials alone.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

1. He stated that there are now 70 Bass fish that have been tagged. An email blast was sent to let people know the specifics of the tagging program. 2. We won't see the results of the electrofishing survey for a few weeks. 3. The Bass are under attack from a lot of different angles. The numbers of Channel Catfish seem to be up – they are at least 3 years old and should only be around 12 inches, but seem to be over 20 inches. They are voracious eaters, and Fichtel recommends catching them and eating them to get them out of the lake. The lake still has a lot of Pickerel, but they are small. They might be eating all the baby Bass in the spring, but then they deplete that supply, and don't grow. 3. Fichtel stated that the ROWs got decimated after the storm, and wants to go on the record as saying that replacing the sand is the wrong thing to do.

Doug Bowen, 156 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

He stated that it was apparent that a good deal of sand eroded into the lake after the two large storms. He thinks we should take our cues from the areas that held up well – the shorelines that are held in place with trees and root systems. We don't want to compound the problem by continuing to add sand to these areas as it will be a chronic maintenance problem going forward.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl thanked all the residents who volunteer and the BOD members who chair three active committees – Beaches and ROWs, Finance, and Lake Health. These committees are very helpful, as they allow the BOD to cover more ground. Although the committees have budgets, when Mother Nature hands us something, we need to adapt. If there is a need to spend more than is budgeted, it has to be brought back to the BOD. We do have a Rainy Day Fund – and perhaps that could be tapped to help pay for the rainy day repairs. Resident Joyce Clark asked how to present recommendations from the committees to the BOD. F. Hoisl answered that the committee chair or a designated committee member should present the recommendations at a BOD meeting.

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

1. A. Connor emailed the August financials to the BOD before the meeting, and has posted them on the website. She changed the format somewhat to make it simpler and easier to read. She stated that our total cash balance is \$367,608. 2. A. Connor stated that she is available to come to committee meetings to talk about budgets and to answer any questions. 3. E. Curtin emailed the Tax Collector's report to the BOD before the meeting and it has been posted on the website. Of the four delinquent properties that were going to be put up for tax sale, two have since paid in full.

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

1. Finance: The Finance Committee did not meet this month.
2. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported that the electrofishing survey was completed by the DEEP on October 4. Residents will be notified via email blast when the results are available and posted on the website. 2. The bathymetry study was done by AER on October 8. One reason for ordering this study was to update the depths, which were last done in 1996; and another was to test the responsiveness and performance of AER. 3. A member of the CT Federation of Lakes sent the District an invitation to join. The yearly membership fee is relatively inexpensive, and you can join as an individual or an organization. The Association includes about a dozen lakes nearby, and they have limnologists on their board. F. Hoisl asked the other BOD members to look at their website and consider if it might be worthwhile to join. 4. Joyce Clark, committee member, did a short presentation about the Phragmites Australis growing in the NE Cove. Presently, the reeds are 10-12 feet, but they can grow to 20 feet, and each seedpod can have approximately 2000 seeds. As these are growing on private property, Clark asked the property owner about the possibility of volunteers mowing, mulching, clipping the pods, then drying and disposing of them, which he was not in favor of. If a professional treats the area, they will need to treat for 2-3 years, at a cost of less than \$5K. At this time, the plan is still to monitor the area for another year. F. Hoisl said that at the next committee meeting they will discuss what the next steps are. Committee member Jeff Arpin stated that the reason for cutting them would be to see what the growth is next year. Al Fichtel stated that it's questionable whether this reed is even a non-native, and that it's more land-based than water-based. He stated that it's a marsh plant and he doesn't believe it's a threat to the lake. He is dead set against spraying

anywhere near the lake.

3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. M. Dagon reported that 14 barberry bushes were removed from Main Beach. It has yet to be determined as to whether or not they will be replaced. 2. Cove ROW was cleared of brush from the plunge pool to the water to keep the flow going. 3. The damage at Lollipop Beach has been cleaned up. 4. The Beaches and ROWs Committee met October 10, with seven people present. The huge rainstorm did a great deal of damage to Oakland and Ryan Terrace ROWs and the committee is meeting with contractors to assess the damage and get estimates for repairs. Their next meeting is November 7 and they will bring their recommendations back to the BOD. B. Pelegano has also spoken to an outside contractor, Extreme Maintenance, to present the BOD with a recommended plan of action for all the beaches and ROWs. 5. Volunteers will rake leaves out of the ROWs again this year, and M. Dagon will hire a contractor to remove the leaves. 6. M. Dagon was notified by a resident that there are two trees at Elsmere ROW, not one, that need to come down, so that will need to be considered. 7. F. Hoisl stated that the budget for the ROWs is 26K, with 5 already spent, leaving \$21K to get us through June 2019. He also noted that the area behind the Main dam, where it goes into woods, currently needs to be cut. 8. Resident Jeff Arpin will install caution tape at Oakland and Ryan Terrace ROWs.
4. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano reported that the District saved approximately \$16,000 on security costs this year, partly due to the weather. 2. He reminded those in attendance that boats must be removed from the beaches and ROWs by November 1. He will not be calling every resident this year, as that was a huge undertaking last year due to the volume of boats that remained. The remaining boats will be removed to another District property at the owner's expense, but will be unsecured.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. A. Stec reported that the September 7" rainstorm washed out three roads – Manion, Catherine and Island Beach. They have since been repaired with a different material, the intent of its use is that it packs down better. A few other roads could use repairs, but are on hold so as to not overspend the budget before the snow season. 2. Recently a large limb fell and blocked Louise Road near the intersection of Deepwood Drive. The tree that it fell from is mostly dead and is actually on ALD property, as it is within the property line of the road. There is another tree that might need to come down on Louise, as well as one on Ryan Terrace Ext. A. Stec will get quotes from an arborist for all three trees.
6. Signs: N. Nurge was not at the meeting so there was no report from the Signs Committee.
7. Communications: 1. L. Bowen stated that four email blasts had been sent to residents since the last BOD meeting, and another blast reminding residents of the November 1 boat removal ordinance will be sent shortly. 2. A Stec would like to put the committee chairs' names on the website. Discussion ensued about the possibility of having an area on the website for board members to

share documents. It was decided to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business discussed.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

A. Stec requested that we add follow-up on the Lebanon roads tree situation.

M. Adjournment

A. Connor moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 P.M., seconded by A. Stec, 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.