

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES

October 21, 2015 7:00 PM

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, B. Lederer, M. Gut, B. Pelegano, D. Martin, L. Lenti,
C. Lenti

B. Call to Order:

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

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

Nick Salerno, 10 Turner Road, Amston,CT

Bought an 18' pontoon boat and he would like to know where he can keep it next year.

He heard about the mooring committee and wanted to be certain that he had a place to moor his boat.

Comment: More discussion is needed by the committee. A decision has not been made yet. Thank you for coming to the meeting and asking. Stay and discuss this after the meeting.

RichSicotte, 14 Woodside Rd, Amston,CT

It is getting more difficult to remove the boats off the racks every year. They are on the racks for 7 months. Why can't we keep the boats on the ROW's all year? Can we change the ordinance? It was not enforced before as it is now.

Comment: Yes, it is inconvenient to remove the boats. There are valid reasons for doing so. At the end of the season there is maintenance of the racks and ROW's—staining, clean up, etc. And now, Cove Rd needs to be cleared soon because of the dredging. Also, we are responsible for anything that happens to the boats.

Question: If a rack needs to be repaired, then why can't the people who own those boats be informed and they can remove those particular boats?

Marge Nichols suggested that residents can help remove the boats—can even ask on Facebook.

Kevin Grady, 199 DeepwoodDr, Amston,CT

Has anyone looked at the sand issue? And can you consider hiring Dr. Knoecklein for H-11?

Comment: Dr. Knoecklein is already involved. Sand going into the lake has always occurred. Our roads are steep and sand,dust, etc. flow into the lake. Adding the Vortechnicunit has helped greatly. We plan to get together with the town to discuss all the issues and decide what would be best for our lake.

Question: The catamaran is moored out from Meadowbrook ROW. The owner has no permission to do so. There needs to be guidelines and a written agreement. We have by-laws which need to be followed.

Discussion of by-laws followed.

Gail Golden, 203 Deepwood Dr, Amston, CT

We had a mooring committee. It went so far and then it seemed to stop. Even lakefront residents need permission to moor boats. If we have rules and regulations then they need to be followed. Where do we stand on mooring?

Discussion under Boats and Rafts---mooring.

Kathy Garvie, 195 Deepwood Dr, Amston, CT

There are large bales of barley straw still on her property and it's difficult for her to move them.

Comment: D. Martin will have that taken care of soon.

Al Fitchel, 203 Deepwood Dr. Amston, CT

Gave the board a poster of weeds, plants that could be found in the lake for identification.

There are many different types of erosion that occur on the ROW's etc. One needs to actually look at it to understand the problem. The engineering report was different than expected. Natural erosion happens and that's normal. But, we can control certain types of erosion on the ROW's. I researched several different case studies on erosion and how it affects life at the shoreline. It's a chain of events over time. More grass on the ROW's will slow down the process. Four reports on sedimentation were given to the board to explain the problems to the lake because of erosion.

Comment: There will always be erosion issues near a lake. We have been fixing them for years at our lake. We tend to study the issue, get scientists involved, and develop a plan. We will study this and come up with an effective solution. The fish have been studied and are in good shape. The board is very concerned about this problem. The president has a meeting planned with the town concerning H-11, Meadowbrook ROW, etc. We need a solution to satisfy all residents as best as possible.

Al Fichtel—Our greatest asset is the lake so we need to take action to be sure our lake remains in good condition.

Gail Golden--- There are inexpensive ways to make a small berm at the ROW and add some grass. The section near our house is in a cove area and the wind blows sediment toward it. The engineer said the sand was from the ROW.

Bob Blackmore, 5 Rondaly Rd., Amston, CT

Last month, it was suggested to get a machine to filter the sand at the Main Beach (prickers, weeds, debris, etc.). It would be wise to take this into consideration.

Comment: Yes, the prickers, etc. need to be removed. We are checking to find a machine that can be rented that would take care of this problem.

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood Dr, Amston, CT

A wall in the ALA clubhouse is bulging because of water damage and in need of repair.

D. Approval of Previous Minutes:

R. DeCormier made a motion to approve the September 16, 2015 minutes. M. Gut seconded. All approved. D. Martin abstained.

E. Receive President's Report:

Concerning the issue of sediments going into the lake. A lake naturally fills over time, This is the life cycle of a lake. One concern is polluting the lake (algae bloom, sand, etc.) from runoff, etc. There is a situation now at 203 Deepwood Dr. and surrounding areas. I will talk with the town about how to stop the problem and come up with comprehensive ideas for correcting these areas including other areas such as H-11 and storm drains. The vortechnic unit's cost was split between the town and ALD. These issues will be brought up with the Town of Hebron and, in the near future, a meeting with the Town of Lebanon will be planned.

A letter from a lawyer concerning the lowering of the lake was received. Persons, not in the district, had issues with water seepage from the stream behind their house. We have restricted the flow to a manageable control. DEEP stated that proper steps were followed and our lawyer is checking the situation. The dredging date has been pushed up a few weeks but we are very close to our goal.

F. Receive Treasurer's Report:

We are on target. All financial reports are on the website.

Guest speaker: Anita Conner, Accountant

Draft of the financial report for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 was handed out and discussion followed.

M. Gut—we should not be taxing residents more than is needed for expenses.

G. Receive Tax Collector's Report:

The tax collector's report was read by the president. All information is on the website.

H. Receive Clerk's Report:

Emails concerning the 3rd notice on lowering the lake, a reminder to residents to remove boats by November 2nd, a plea for volunteers for a pavilion committee, the Lebanon roads report, and a notice that the dredging was changed to the end of October were sent to all residents. The Lollipop parking lot apron is completed. The docks were moved and boats left behind were placed at the shoreline.

I. Presentation of Correspondence:

Emails were received concerning pricklers on the Main Beach, erosion problem on Meadowbrook ROW, H-11 outflow, barley straw removal, and a suggestion for a meeting with the town about the engineer's report.

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

Weeds and Algae—a letter was sent to the contractor introducing B. Pelegano and requesting the permit by December for spraying weeds/plants in the lake and a map of the treatment areas.

Dredging---the lowering of the water is monitored every day. The water needs to be lowered about 7-8 inches more. Hopefully before November 1st.

D. Martin is meeting with Dr. Knoecklein and a report will be available in a few months.

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

Lebanon Roads

A report from the Lebanon Roads committee included: Project II was completed. A ditch on Wildwood Rd needs to be addressed, a report with B. Handfield (Lebanon Public Works) has been finalized, an inventory of storm sewers will be provided to the board and a maintenance plan is being finalized for fall and spring. Bids will be sought.

Approximately half of the total length of roads have been brought into good repair.

More road work will be done in the spring. The snow removal contract will be monitored.

Security

Summer security has ended. There is a light fall coverage. We have a budget for winter security.

Traffic safety: A committee for traffic safety has been formed. Contact has been made with Troop K and a discussion and good conversation took place. Pros and cons of speed bumps, cross walks, speed lights, etc. were discussed. The committee contacted Traffic Solutions for information. B. Lederer will chair the meetings and discuss options. The next step will be to speak with both towns and public works.

Dam/Duck Pond

Plans need to be made on the duck pond dam remediation. Been in touch with Karl Acimovic (Hebron town engineer).

Do we need to keep the water behind the duck pond dam at full capacity? When dredging is completed, the pipe located at the bottom of the dam can be investigated to see if it's clogged or has an on/off valve. If so, then this is a way to keep the water at a lower level which might reduce pressure on the dam.

Also, we have received a letter from the State which requires the board to issue a report on the condition of both dams.

Communications

B. Pelegano has a charter for a communications plan which needs to be discussed.

Boats, Docks, and Rafts

Residents are starting to remove their boats. The docks have been moved for the winter. A volunteer group is needed to assist some residents in removing their boats from the racks. A discussion on ordinances about mooring, swing rates, distance, and grandfather privileges, etc. followed.

Beaches and ROW's

Joe Polulech 's study on Meadowbrook ROW stated there were several sources for the sand problem. Additional analysis is needed to find the root cause of the sand problem and see if the Town of Hebron would contribute. Potentially, action items can be brought to the next meeting.

Mike Gut and Marge Nichols will chair the pavilion committee which has three members. A report was read which stated there are photos of pavilions on the website, a meeting took place with ALA asking for input, contact with the president of the Lake Hayward Association who provided much information, and a list of pavilion points. The committee will meet soon to determine the next steps.

Calendar and Tasks

We are up to date for October.

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

None to report.

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

Discussion on absentee ballots. Based on our charter, people must be physically present to vote. It is not legally allowed. We can follow up on this issue.

Volunteer solicitation will be placed on next month's agenda.

N. Prepare Agenda for the Next Meeting:

Nothing to add.

B. Lederer made a motion for an executive session and F. Hoisl seconded. All approved.

At 10:01 PM the board went into executive session.

The session ended at 10:16 PM.

Results: The dredging of the area near Ames Road went to BASE Construction.

O. Adjournment:

B. Lederer made a motion to adjourn and L. Lenti seconded. All approved.

The meeting ended at 10:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Claire Lenti, Clerk

Amston Lake District

