

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

September 19, 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 7:01 P.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

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

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

B. Pelegano moved to approve the August 15, 2018 minutes, seconded by N. Nurge. Six members approved, A. Stec abstained, and the motion passed.

D. New Board Member:

F. Hoisl stated that the BOD had a vacancy due to K. Rockoff's resignation. He explained that the BOD is empowered to fill the seat until the voter election of directors at the May annual meeting. ALD resident Todd LaMontagne introduced himself to the BOD as a candidate to fill the vacancy and spoke about his qualifications. B. Pelegano moved to elect Mr. LaMontagne to serve on the BOD until the end of FY 2018-19, A. Connor seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

E. Presentation of Correspondence and Communications:

1. L. Bowen received confirmation about holding the 2019 annual meeting at the Douglas Library in Hebron. 2. L. Bowen and B. Pelegano both received emails from residents about the damage done at Lollipop beach. 3. An email was received from a resident in response to the Phragmites australis weed blast, thanking us for keeping the residents informed about lake health. 4. F. Hoisl received an email from Glenn Ostrager, in response to a query about the blighted property at 23 Rondaly in Hebron. Mr. Ostrager stated that he is planning to demolish the house this fall. 5. The ALD received a legal notice from the town of Hebron regarding a resident's request for a one foot property line variance next to a ROW.

F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Cove Road: A. Connor stated that discussion of plans for this property will be tabled due to other important lake health issues.
2. Records retention/ disposition plan: A. Connor stated that the ad hoc group has made tremendous progress, with only 5 boxes in the storage unit left to go through. The next phase is to get permission from the state to dispose of some records that are past the retention period, and then to scan certain items and retain them electronically. Group member Jeff Arpin is listing all records related to lake health issues in a searchable Excel spreadsheet. This spreadsheet will be a resource to help us when making future lake health decisions.

G. Task List and Action Items

1. F. Hoisl went through the Action List, with no items outstanding from last month. The BOD also discussed the Task List items for September and October. 2. Resident Carl Wool stated that the "Boat Removal" signs with the Nov 1 deadline are in the shed behind the clubhouse.

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

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

Jeff took pictures of the house at 181 Deepwood Drive in Lebanon in the heavy rainstorm yesterday. It's been under construction for quite some time, without a silt fence. As the house is perched on a hill and surrounded by dirt, it's all washing out into the lake. Jeff has gone to the town, but received no response and hopes the BOD will get involved.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Road, Hebron

Regarding the house under construction on Deepwood Drive opposite Rondaly Rd - the silt fence and hay bales are gone. Some very large trees were cut to clear a driveway that runs straight down across from Rondaly, and the water is running down that path into the lake. He is also concerned that the tree trunk sections are stacked at the top of the driveway in a somewhat precarious manner. He has called the town, but received no response. F. Hoisl will follow up with the towns regarding the lack of erosion control.

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

1. Carl will be joining M. Dagon on the Beaches and ROWs committee. 2. He asked if we had come across former BOD member Dave Martin's Blue Book, which was basically a task list, and thinks it would be helpful for the current BOD to have. 3. He stated that the boat storage area needs to be looked at to make sure it's functional. The BOD stated that residents are not supposed to leave their boats there over the winter, it is only for summer storage of trailers. N. Nurge will check to see if we have a sign that trailers are parked at their own risk. 4. Carl stated that the iron gate in front of the weir boards needs to be pulled completely out of the way, or the weeds will get stuck every few days. The boards should start to be pulled around the middle of October if the lake is at normal full. 5. Carl found a container that holds live minnows tied to the dock at Lollipop Beach, which he stated shouldn't have been there. 6. He reminds people that it's very important that all of our committees work together.

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

Jeff believes we should check the culverts on the Lebanon side of the lake, as the town has recently chip sealed the roads, which might result in the culverts filling up. He wouldn't mind checking them himself, and also suggested we keep some kind of record of when the town is cleaning them.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

1. Stated that a few days ago he noticed a small blue-green algae bloom on the shoreline from the Meadowbrook ROW up to almost Oakland ROW. It was confirmed by limnologist Dr. Knoecklein, was gone by the end of the day, and hasn't reappeared since. It is nothing to worry about currently, but Al believes the District needs to isolate

the areas that are bringing phosphates and nitrites into the lake, as these are the things that feed it, and it reproduces very quickly. 2. Al found a curious plant a few days ago, and is sending it to Dr. K. for identification. Al suspects it is a native plant since he's seen it before. 3. Al has new photos of erosion taking place on the ROWs from yesterday's (9/18/18) rain. Cove is the flattest ROW but seems to erode the most. 4. The lake is experiencing "lake turnover" right now which should help the lake's oxygen issues. 5. Al asked and received confirmation from the BOD that the boat removal date is November 1. 6. He questioned why the District lowers the lake every year and stated that it is not great for the health of the lake. He wonders if the District would consider not lowering it, or lowering it less, or lowering it every other year? F. Hoisl stated that the Lake Health Committee would discuss this topic with the limnologist. 7. The DEEP has moved up next year's electrofishing survey to this Oct 4th. Al is awaiting for approval from the DEEP for the Bass tagging program he discussed at last month's meeting. 8. He reported seeing some very large Catfish in the lake, in the range of 18-20 inches and approximately 3-5 pounds.

Resident Carl Wool stated that the one year we didn't lower the lake, there was quite a bit of damage to homeowners' shoreline retaining walls.

I. Receive President's Report:

After the August BOD meeting, a resident of the District did some unauthorized construction at Lollipop beach. He is not an insured or licensed contractor. F. Hoisl met with several contractors to get estimates to repair the damage. The resident will be sent a letter requesting reimbursement for the cleanup, and because he modified District property, there will be a \$100 fine per our ordinances.

J. 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. There were no unusual expenses and no questions from the BOD about the reports. 2. E. Curtin emailed the Tax Collector's report to the BOD before the meeting and it has been posted on the website.

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

1. Finance: The Finance committee met last week and went over the financial statements. They would like to add to their ranks and get some new committee members. B. Lederer offered to join the committee.
2. Lake Health: The DEEP confirmed the presence at the lake of the invasive non-native *Phragmites australis*, and an email blast was sent to notify ALD residents. The committee spoke to several certified removal companies that were recommended by DEEP. Removal, which could involve cutting or spraying, must be permitted by DEEP. The consensus was to mark the area to monitor its growth for now and continue to evaluate the situation.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. The Duck pond dam has been mowed and cleared. 2. The trash at Main beach will be removed along with a large tree branch. 3. The thorny Barberry bushes at Main beach will be removed and the holes filled at a cost of \$450. 4. M. Dagon is researching a better way to remove the weeds on Main beach that a volunteer had been removing, as the current method might

actually be spreading them. 5. The plunge pool at Lollipop beach is full of sand and needs to be cleaned out again. 6. The brush in the plunge pool at Cove ROW will be removed for \$450. 7. Discussion regarding the Ryan Terrace ROW took place. M. Dagon will get recommendations of what the Beaches and Rows committee would like to do to further modify this ROW, and get an estimate from an outside contractor. Resident and Lake Health Committee member Jeff Arpin stated that if anything is done to the ROWs that will affect lake health, the Lake Health Committee should be involved as well. 8. The committee will be proposing adding more boat racks in next year's budget. A. Connor suggested that if we are underspent this year, perhaps some of that money can be used to build the boat racks this spring before the next boating season begins. 9. The Beaches and ROWs Committee will have their first meeting in October. 10. M. Dagon will have the contractor who will be working at the Cove ROW also look at the Northeast cove plunge pool to get an estimate for cleaning.

4. Security, Boats: Security is over for the season, and the deadline to remove boats from the beaches and ROWs is Nov. 1. After the deadline, the boats will be removed by the District at the owners' expense.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. A. Stec reported that she has received three quotes for snow removal and suggested the BOD go over them in executive session at the end of the meeting. 2. She did a drive-around with Jay Tuttle from the town of Lebanon to talk about the culverts and catch basins. Jay says they try to educate residents on either side of the culverts about how to take care of them.
6. Signs: N. Nurge will be working with M. Dagon to coordinate signage needs around the lake. She has taken photos of all current signs and will propose what we need to communicate. There will be three types: "Amston Lake" signs, signs with beach rules, and signs for communication (boat passes, annual meeting, etc.).
7. In Communications, L. Bowen stated that four email blasts had been sent to residents since the last BOD meeting, and a blast reminding residents of the November 1 boat removal ordinance will be sent shortly.

L. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

1. Lollipop Beach: See President's Report.
2. 54 Deepwood, Lebanon: A. Stec attended an Inland Wetlands meeting regarding this property, and F. Hoisl attended the IW Commission walkabout at the property, where they are requesting to replace the original structure with a new house and driveway. F. Hoisl also attended the Commission walkabout at 190 Deepwood in Lebanon, where the owners put a yard and a half of sand in their shorefront area and a yard and a half of sand directly in the water. The Board will be following up with the homeowners of #190 regarding violation of the ordinances and applicable fines.

M. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

Nothing to add at this time.

Executive Session:

B. Pelegano moved to go into executive session to discuss this year's snow removal contract. T. LaMontagne seconded, and motion was unanimously approved. The executive session began at 9:35 and ended at 9:50.

A. Connor moved to award this year's snow plowing contract to BASE Construction. L. Bowen seconded, A. Stec abstained, seven members approved, and the motion passed.

N. Adjournment: B. Pelegano moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 P.M., seconded by N. Nurge, 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.