

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

MINUTES

September 21, 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, M. Gut, B. Pelegano, A. Conner, L. Lenti, C. Lenti

B. Call to Order:

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

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

John Baronowski, 251 Deepwood Dr, Hebron, CT

How many on the board are year round residents? Answer: one

I came in July to get my passes. When I called, I didn't get a call back. I have no means to print any passes, etc. What I received was a piece of paper to use as a pass and it would cost \$10.00. I am supposed to get 2 passes each for beach and car.

Comment: 575 passes were ordered. Much more than the year before. This year many more residents came for their passes. There were 5 people who received a letter. This coming year, more passes will be ordered. An apology was given. It seems like a communication challenge. Next year get in touch early and, hopefully, we won't have this problem.

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Road, Lebanon CT

In the minutes, I noticed a need for volunteers to pull the weeds, etc. at the Lollipop area. I will volunteer to help when the need arises again.

Thank you for the new bench at Ryan Terrace., but it is not in a good position. Can it be repositioned? Brett Harlow will reposition the bench.

Brett Harlow, 403 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon CT

The town will be grinding the road on the Hebron side. We may be able to get the "millings" which can be placed in the trailer parking area. If we can get it for free, then I will spread it.

Comment: M. Paul will call Kevin Kelly to ask about the millings.

Ron Niemczyk, 33 Kelly's Corner, Lebanon, CT

I made a proposal last year to clear the trailer parking area. There are some trees, stumps, etc. that need to be removed. There is an opportunity to store 20 trailers and charge for it.

Kevin Grady, 199 Deepwood Dr, Hebron, CT

I attended a WPCA meeting last week. I understand that a Vortechnic Unit would not be installed. Also, grant money was given to the town for the road/drain work.

Comment: There was never a final plan to put in another Vortechnic Unit. The unit we have will be monitored and evaluated for its effectiveness. We paid \$20,000 for the unit and the town paid for all the installation and engineering. In conversation, the ALD offered some payment (\$12,100) for the

drain/road project to be done now. We are always partnering with the town to get work done in a timely manner. In the future, another Vortechnic Unit "could" be installed.

Kevin Grady stated that another Vortechnic Unit is necessary near H-11. There is too much sand in the area. Can I call the town to put silt sacks on the drain? Also, the barley straw needs to be removed now.

Comment: We need to monitor the Vortechnic Unit to see how it works before adding another one and have a conversation with the town. Yes, as a resident, you can call the town about the silt sacks.

Johanna Kilbourn, 290 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, CT

I've had my cottage for 10 years. It is next to the Lollipop area. There are too many weeds, etc. and the area has never been cleaned out. It is very difficult to swim or use the area for anything.

Comment: this area cannot be treated because there is a well located near the area. We can treat up to within 500 feet of the well. This is a state law. Some weeds, etc. were pulled by M. Paul a few weeks ago, but we need a plan to have volunteers to pull the weeds, etc. manually and list it as yearly maintenance.

Greg Baier, 32 St. Ronan St, Hebron, CT

Can we move the discussion concerning an electric supply on the main Beach earlier on the agenda?

A motion was made by F. Hoisl to move the ALA request for an electric supply on the Main Beach earlier in the agenda. Seconded by A. Connor. All approved. Motion passed.

Gail Golden, 203 Deepwood Dr, Hebron, CT

Are we still on schedule for the dredging in 2017? The engineer came, all agreed the area needs dredging. H-11 and Meadowbrook have been taken care of. There is 1 ½ feet of sand in some areas. This is not healthy for the lake. And can we change the name "Al's sand area" to something more appropriate?

Comment: Yes, some areas in the lake need dredging. For now, we need to get the funding and a priority list. A permitting process will begin soon. We need to know the cost and get more information. Then the dredging project will be brought before the residents at an annual meeting. Discussion followed.

Rich White, 223 Deepwood Dr. Hebron, CT

Are we lowering the lake now?

Comment: This year, the lake will be lowered about 12 inches. We only lower it up to 30 inches when there is a dredging project. Right now, the lake seems low because of the lack of rain. We usually begin lowering it in October.

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood Dr, Hebron, CT

I pull a weir board which usually lowers the lake about 12 inches.

A letter used as a beach pass is not acceptable. My wife and I would be happy to help give out passes. There are 800 houses on the lake and only 500 passes were ordered.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr, Hebron, CT

I would like a document explaining why and how an area becomes a wet land.

In previous minutes, it was stated that dredging would be done after the roads were completed next summer. I don't want to see dredging for the Lollipop area taking priority over dredging near H-11.

Comment: The road work is being done. Next, we need the costs, information, etc. for the dredging and the residents vote. Then it will be done.

Brett Harlow, 403 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, CT

I've worked on dredging projects for 10 years. Once weeds, silt, etc. fill up an area, the lake will lose its footprint. We have lost 3-4 feet already in the Deepwood Dr. curve area on the Lebanon side. Once it's gone, it can't be recuperated.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Rd, Hebron, CT

Since a board member resigned, I propose that the board accept one of the other residents who were nominated at the annual meeting. Discussion of the by-law. It is not necessary to fill the position now but the board will approach the other person to see if he is interested.

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Dr, Hebron, CT

After the bass fishing derby, there were many dead fish left on the beach. Residents should clean up after themselves. I, also, would like dredging near my property. Discussion followed.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by L. Lenti to approve the August 17, 2016 minutes. Seconded by R. DeCormier. Seven approved. One abstained. Motion passed.

E. Receive Presidents Report:

The treatment of the weeds, etc. in the lake was limited. No poison was put into the lake. It was very surgically done. The process went well and the vendor will return to test the water soon.

M. Paul will attend small claims court on October 4th concerning the fireworks issue from August. Neither the ALD nor the ALA sponsored the fireworks.

F. Receive Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Report:

The treasurer met with the tax collector about QDS adjustments. They will meet every month to assure there are no discrepancies. The Tax Collector's report was given to the board. The rate book is needed to close the books as of June 30, 2016. The treasurer's report was handed to the board. Discussion followed.

G. Receive Clerk's Report:

Two new benches and three plaques are now in place. Mass emails were sent for quotes on snow plowing, a notice on water treatment, and a reminder to remove boats from rows and beaches by November 1st.

H. Presentation of Correspondence:

Emails were received concerning a price list from Northeast Aquatic Research, an FOI request, Pavilion discussion, and permission to use a grill on the Main Beach.

Also, Eileen O'Donnell, senior fish biologist, from DEEP will conduct an electrofishing survey on October 5th, weather permitting. L. Lenti spoke with her concerning the die off of some fish in the lake. She stated that all the lakes in CT had a die off of fish because of the heat for an

extended period of time this summer. There were greatly reduced oxygen levels in most lakes and some die off is natural. But this die off was limited though it was expected to be larger. Other emails were received from residents pleased with the roadwork done on the Lebanon roads, a complaint about chickens, and a request from a person on Crouch Rd to join the district.

Drew Gibson,

The ALA would like to add an electric supply at the Main Beach. In the past, the ALA used the neighbor's electricity. We need the power for many events such as movie night, lake day, etc. We have an estimate of \$2350 and ask if the ALD can help with the cost.

Comment: We will look over the estimate and bring it up at the next meeting.

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

Deepwood Drive on the Hebron side will be paved now that the work on the storm drains, pipes, etc. have been completed. Dredging has been addressed. We need to find vendors, costs, reports, permits, and prepare the budget to get the process started. Discussion followed.

The treatment of the weeds, etc. is completed. It could be done every three years. The weeds at Lollipop must be pulled manually. F. Hoisl will monitor this and, hopefully, will have volunteers to pull the weeds. Discussion followed.

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

Lebanon Roads

The road work has been completed. Next is the fall maintenance of the ditches (swales) including blowing the leaves. A discussion is in progress considering long term maintenance. Quotes from two vendors came in for snow plowing. An executive session will pick the vendor.

Pavilion

M. Nichols gave a pavilion report. The committee has grown and took fields trips to see pavilions at other lakes. A design was considered and research was done concerning costs, security issues, and who built their pavilion at certain locations.

Other discussions included a pavilion kit, quote for a metal roof, cement floor, etc.

More discussion is needed before a proposal is presented to the board.

Security

Security has ended for the summer season. A similar security plan will be in place for next summer. There were few incidents and no major problems. A discussion followed on having a phone number to call for responding to community problems.

Communications

PDF files are being added to the website. Much updating is finished but there is still more to be done.

Dam/Duck Pond

Yearly trimming of the duck pond area has been added to general maintenance. The lake is down 9 ½ inches but will be lowered to 12 inches. F. Hoisl will call Karl Acimovic concerning an estimate for the duck pond dam.

Beaches and Row's

Yearly trimming of the Lollipop walkway has been added to general maintenance. Both Main Beach and Lollipop Beach will be cleared of weeds/prickers., etc. Ryan Terrace will be cleared of brush. The docks will be moved in November and the Cove row racks will be moved 3-4 feet for easier access.

Boats, Docks, and Rafts

A second notice to remove boats by November 1st will be sent. There may be a need for a few more boat racks. The boat dock connection at the Main Beach needs to be replaced. Also, the poles on the new boat dock at Lollipop need to be adjusted so that they can be more easily removed.

Finance

Put discussion of 3-year plan on next month's agenda.

Calendar and Tasks.

A task list is in progress. We are on task this month.

A. Connor made a motion to authorize up to \$300 for the removal of 20 bales of barley straw. Seconded by M. Gut. All approved.

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

None to report

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

- a. ALA—electricity on Main beach
- b. Pass process

M. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

Nothing new to add

A motion was made by F. Hoisl to go into executive session to discuss quotes on snow removal.

Seconded by A. Connor. All approved. The executive session began at 10.28 P.M.

The session ended at 10:44 P.M.

The snow removal contract for the 2016-2017 season was given to BASE Construction LLC.

N. Adjournment:

R. DeCormier made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by L. Lenti. All approved.

The meeting ended at 10.45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Claire Lenti, Clerk

Amston Lake Tax District.