

Amston Lake District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
August 18th, 2010 7:00 p.m.
ALIA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, 06231
www.AmstonLake.org

- A. Roll Call of Officers and Directors- Present: D. O'Brien, Pres., L. Hennebury, VP, R. Decormier, Treasurer, S. Martin, Clerk, D. Martin, D. Moorcroft, S. Forgue, L. Lenti

Absent J. Connor (arrived at 7:24 pm)

- B. Call to Order 7:00 pm

- C. Recognition of Guests, Residents and Property Owners' Petitions

Chuck Wallace, 12 Lake Rd, Amston

Overflow brook on his property – since 1960 has not stopped running and is dry now; fault in dam or crack in rock with no trouble in 50 years – crack kept trickle running thru overflow stream; a week ago, or few days ago, no water flowing; full flow of water last month and now nothing; what can you do for me?

O'Brien: Initial thoughts are that not any rainfall; we have done two major repairs to the dam in past year; Governor talking about declaring drought conditions and wells are running dry in Lebanon; D. Martin - many dry stream beds in Lebanon which have not been dry for over five years; USGS.gov has flow meters which tell how much water is running through different water ways; C. Wallace – has seen water low enough so that valve of dam was exposed and he still had water in his brook; per D. Moorcroft – water down 5" below dam; believe the combination of the lack of rain and dam repairs are causing his dry brook; D. Moorcroft will meet with him to show him our dam area and the water levels (860-228-9210)

- D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – per S. Martin, changes requested in R. Decormier's email to the Board; D. Moorcroft moved to approve the minutes; second by Ray DeCormier; L. Hennebury abstained and all others approved; discussion around level of detail in the minutes
- E. Receive and Act Upon Clerk's Report – S. Martin – I joined Board when first wanted to treat lake for lily pads and DEP approved the eventual application even though many of us thought it too close to the water tower based on the Rodeo label info; I am shocked they have now decided to enforce it
- F. Presentation of Correspondence and Communication – discussion about message board on website: so much going on, posting is a lot of work-post on outdoor signboards or ask on ALA Facebook page; See attached list
- G. Receive President's Report – nothing to report
- H. Receive Treasurer's Report – R. Decormier – (J. Connor arrived at 7:24 pm) – D. O'Brien thanked R. Decormier for insurance savings he has generated by moving to a different vendor; we did not budget any money for ACT for this year; Per L. Hennebury, we signed a contract with ACT and need to do \$6500 worth of work; discussion around costs of water testing – expensive but may be needed to have scientific data we need to keep watch over the lake so hiring Dr, Knocklein was solution to not having new equipment during testing time period; D. O'Brien working to expedite delivery of replacement equipment; big hit to the budget; have \$9686 in budget
- I. Receive Tax Collector's Report – read Eileen Curtin's report submitted on August 10, 2010 to the Clerk's mailbox; 672 payments seems like a lot – how many total do we send out? What is the

percentage received from each town?

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

1. Dam – D. Moorcroft – J. Laferriere saw State of CT vehicle sitting at Duck Pond Dam today but he missed them; curious as to what they might have been doing and wondered if any of us knew; brush cutting is done; D. Moorcroft thinks too much brush left along the water along the Duck Pond; contractor cannot go in the water; S. Forgue thought contractor did great job and continuing maintenance will improve; D. Moorcroft: End of wall at Duck Pond and did not go to end; 10 – 15 ft not cut but not sure what asked to cut; contractor did what requested and is significantly better than it was before being cut
2. Storm Drains – D. O'Brien – cycling to fall with Town of Hebron on vortex drain
3. Lebanon Sewer Project – D. Martin – hiring Fuss and O' Neill of Manchester as consulting engineer; did Hebron side 20 years ago; G. Hicks/DEP has been notified; Town of Lebanon has to hire them by August 31 to stay on time line; contract in process; nine responses were received from good firms; L. Hennebury – applying for grant money? Yes, USDA Grant Money
4. Drinking Water – S. Martin – concern with Grossman Property development in Hebron and lack of interest by Town of Hebron at meeting as reported by L. Stanolous(?) – water truck is delivering water daily to Lebanon tower and has been for at least six weeks; installing 32 wells between the lake and the new well – how can that possibly help us who are already here in the long run? Please read up on situation and help if possible by attending the next meeting.
5. Boats & Rafts – Dave Arnold – submitted to D. O'Brien procedures for removal of items from beaches and ROWs for maintenance to be performed; S. Forgue things every other year is often enough to replace boat passes; we need to limit the number of passes we give out like the local dumps and other beaches do – can buy two replacements at \$10 each but after that, have to wait for a year; we need to draft a process and have the Board review, edit and come to agreement; start discussion for September meeting; S. Forgue – there will be hundreds of boats that aren't moved and where do we put them? Berglund Property used for storage; important to keep a list of boat sticker numbers and owner names and we did not do that this year; per by-laws, boats are to be removed by November 1 of each year; can sell boats but it is work and cost to dump
6. Weeds – L. Hennebury – talked to Aquatic Control – we have a contract signed on Jan 21, 2010 by Mark Paul for retreatment this fall; filed for permit in February; \$5650 to include water testing required by new DEP regulations; six pre and six post tests required based on requests of CT Water Company; much of area next to Lollipop is off limits for treatment near docks; can treat growth out further but main chunk is now off limits; we can ask ACT to go back to DEP and ask for more flexibility on treatments; September 2nd is date – two week required notification and two weeks starts tomorrow-go back to DEP and look for flexibility-if hold off, cannot be done until October and late October is too late; if we do it now and cannot do whole side, will have water testing results – if they are all good, have reason to be allowed to treat again; dredging Northeast Cove may prove to solve vegetation and silt issues so can stop using herbicides in the long run;. L. Hennebury did go around the lake and take pictures of areas where lily pads are regrowing in pockets and feels it is necessary;

L. Lenti: made a motion to authorize L. Hennebury to proceed with process identified in signed contract with ACT by Mark Paul in January 2010 – second by D. Moorcroft. Unanimous approval.

D. Martin wants to do plant survey on Saturday, August 28, 2010 at 10:00 am at the Main Beach and invites others to participate; wants to cover boat launch areas, specifically to make sure we do not have any slender nymph weed in the lake as has been found in the Bolton lakes; the town of Bolton has requested help from the State of CT; noticed it growing one day and the lake was full by the end of the week; like green spaghetti floating in lake; concerned that party boats may not be using launches and may be going to other lakes; follow up with Mike Smith to see what we

can put on our website to get word out to the community to watch out for it; get done ASAP; see if WFSB will give us a copy of the video to post on our website

7. Communications - R. Decormier – working on flyer with D. O'Brien – to be reviewed by Board before being sent out; add notes about new invasive species found in Bolton, slender nymph weed
 8. Ordinances – J. Connor - still need to put a procedure in place to enforce ordinances, D. Moorcroft – ordinances are not useful without an enforcement procedure; need to find Mark Paul's enforcement information and move from there; J. Connor - need to treat everyone equally; children under 12 need to be accompanied by a parent and not all are; D. Moorcroft - rules say "under 12" and ordinances say "12 and under"; will address dog owners as necessary to stop dogs from defecating on the beaches and ROWs – D.O'Brien will write notes as needed; need to take action to stop repeat offenders; gates close at 9 pm at the beaches but people still have the right to go on the beaches
 9. Security – J. Connor – issues with glass getting broken on the beach; someone was taken away in an ambulance and had to get stitches; how do we enforce this? Practical approach is to give a warning and then fine up to \$250 if no change in behavior; D. O'Brien – we should invite Shane Speight to the next meeting to talk about professional security rules; he lives on Beech Rd. and has offered to talk with us as he is a security professional; J. Connor will contact him
 10. Lebanon Roads – D. Martin - next meeting is September 11, 2010 at 9:00 am – roads are in pretty decent shape; don't need to spend a lot of money on them; D. Martin will have snowplowing RFP for next meeting for review – D. O'Brien will send last RFP to D. Martin
- K. Receive Lake Management Reports – remove breakdown of #1 and #2 so just Receive Lake Management Reports
1. Caretakers' Report - nothing to report
 2. Lake Health Coordinator – August 2, G. Knocklein and K. Grady tested deep water station and it looks great; barley straw is working for us; remove at mid of Sept/begin of Oct; S. Forgue to plan and coordinate with Board; need to find someone with a boat to help; H11 area needs to be cleaned out – remove silt sediments that have built up, K. Grady sent request to do again and Dr. Knocklein agreed; D. O'Brien to forward pictures from K. Grady
- L. Act on Remaining Items of Agenda....Old Business
1. ALD Self Help Document – hold until next meeting
 2. Dam Debt – discuss repayment – we owe \$35,800; spend \$10,000 every six months. Have four payments of \$10,000 each but if pay now, will save \$3,000 in interest over the next two years; we are paying interest we do not need to; we can't use working capital, would need to call a Special District Meeting to vote on paying off the debt; we would still have \$35,000 left in our checking account; cost of borrowing would be less if we borrowed it again if needed; target for cash is \$100,000, \$10,000 for the dam and \$10,000 for the Lebanon Roads; L. Hennebury concerned with incoming revenues and waiting until January to make sure we collect most of the taxes due; \$9500 off from last year and uncomfortable with making a decision until January; would still have \$77,000 in cash; do we want to take this to a special meeting? Percentage rate is 7.5-8% which is very high
- Scott Forgue motioned that we call a Special District Meeting to vote on paying off the dam; second Ray Decormier; hold Special Meeting on September 15 at 6:30 pm, prior to the regularly scheduled Board Meeting and print in paper as per guidelines; unanimous approval; pointed out that \$10,000 will come from the budget and the other \$25,000 will come from cash
3. Discussion on Calendar and Tasks – Responsibilities and Assignments – R. Decormier - only S.

Forgue signed up for taking some on; take a look at the list and let him know what we are interested in doing or getting done for the district

M. New Business.....Discussion and Possible Action

1. Dogs on the Beach – issues and the ordinance – D. O'Brien - need to bring this up at the Annual Meeting for agreement with the residents; should some ROWs be dog friendly and others not because so many people swim there? We do not want to make a decision without community input; D. Moorcroft discussed the multiple areas within the ordinances and rules and recommendations which prohibit pets from the beaches; Oakland, Spafford and Ryan Terrace ROWs are heavily used for swimming – should we suggest designating swimming with no dogs on these too to be more fair to those without dogs? D. Martin: Should we do a poll and see if there are interest/strong feelings around this? D. O'Brien – would need to put parameters around the poll; D. Moorcroft concerned that is we label areas for dogs, more dogs will be there then we are imagining; we are going to leave this alone for next year and not put up the signs

N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting – Add to new business: Distribution of Passes

O. Adjournment – motion to adjourn by Scott Forgue, second by Lou Lenti – unanimous approval – adjourned at 9:38 pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Sherri-Ann Martin, Clerk
Amston Lake Tax District