

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES

July 15, 2015 7:00PM

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, B. Pelegano, M. Gut, L. Lenti, C. Lenti

Absent: D. Martin

B. Call to Order:

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

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

David Ristow, 7 Meadowbrook Rd, Amston,CT

Thank you to the board for all their work. I have lived at the lake for 33 years. I heard a rumor that Meadowbrook ROW was to be modified. I would like to keep the smaller rights of way as they are now, not to change the integrity and use of the ROW. Changing the ROW would affect property values. Meadowbrook ROW has always been a beach as are other ROW's.

Carl Wool, 182 DeepwoodDr,Amston, CT

Fixed the chain and lock at Cove ROW.

A problem exists at the Main Beach boat launch. He suggests placing no parking signs as sometimes it is very difficult for trailers with boats to enter the area. Also, suggests that people not leave their trailers near the boat launch. Instead, leave them at Bergland Property while boating.Also, he is working with the Fire Dept. about a lock on the boat launch chain.Who can we call when help is needed?

Comment: Phone numbers will be on the website.

Barbara Dawley, 185 DeepwoodDr, Amston,CT

Dana Lopez has spearheaded a petition against driving too fast on Deepwood Dr. She has 75 signatures so far and is investigating what other areas do to place stop signs, or speed bumps,etc. Discussion followed. She will continue with the petition and gather information.

Shauna Hatch, 12 Lake Road, Amston,CT

Gave the board 2 letters from owners of 2 properties on Lake Road who wish to be reinstated in the Amston Lake District.

Comment: Discussion under item M. "Old business".

Jessica Ristow, 7 Meadowbrook Dr, Amston, CT

Concerned about Meadowbrook ROW. She would like it to remain as a beach with sand. She learned to swim there.

Ann Goncalves, Bass Lake Road, Amston, CT

Would like to keep Meadowbrook ROW as a beach with sand.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr, Amston, CT

Concerned about sand build up in front of his house. Can we put less sand and more grass on the ROW? Discussion followed.

Janet Garret, Cove Road, Lebanon, CT

Can a handrail be installed at Ryan Terrace on the steps for now? Also, what can be done to avoid a battle with residents who bring dogs, etc. to the beaches and ROW's? Comment: Rules are posted and all residents need to follow the rules and be respectful. There are limitations on what can be done. Discussion followed. An email blast can be sent reminding residents of these rules.

A bicycle group has been formed. Where can cars without ALD stickers park when bicycling?

Comment: If notice is given, then cars can park on ALD property. Maybe, put a note on car when bicycling.

Guest, 7 Woodside Rd, Amston, CT

Concerned about garbage being left on beaches. He has picked up garbage many times. Comment: the rationale for not having garbage cans is we don't have the capacity right now for someone to empty the cans constantly. This issue should be revisited. We will discuss and evaluate it.

Lorraine Long, 15 Meadowbrook Dr, Amston, CT

In last month's minutes, it was stated that we need a plan for Meadowbrook ROW. She would like to keep the sand and not have all grass. It has been a beach for 52 years. Most sand seems to move from West to East.

Comment: We will come up with a plan. All concerned citizens can participate to arrive at an appropriate solution.

Ken Goncalves, Bass Lake Road, Amston, CT

Concerned about Meadowbrook ROW, also. Oakland was flattened and seems to be better. The dam is lowered each year. Maybe, ice is a factor.

Bob Blackmore, 5 Rondaly Road, Amston,CT

A good job was done on the fireworks on 4th of July on Amston Lake property. Can we work with the town to police fireworks on resident's property?

Comment: We can remind residents about being good neighbors.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Rd.,Amston, CT

Can we have a blight ordinance? The town does not have one. We have the power to work on one—maybe levy fines.

Comment: This is a challenge. It involves the Health Dept., Zoning, etc. It's a long process. As of now, we can look into it again. On some properties, foreclosures, etc. the tax payer is responsible for keeping the property clean. Can call B.Swanson for further information.

Brian Swanson, Hillcrest Rd, Amston,CT

On Lebanon sewers—if a smell is in the area, call the town.Also, if water is brown, call CT Water Company. Brian also tests water.

It's a good idea to put all phone numbers for these problems on the website.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

L. Lenti made a motion to approve the June 17, 2015 minutes. F. Hoisl seconded.

B. Lederer, B. Pelegano, and M. Gut abstained. All others approved.

E. Receive and Act upon the Clerk's Report:

The second notice of taxes due was in theRivereast and Norwich Bulletin on July 2nd and July 3rd.The Fire Dept. had a training session in the lake on June 29.

A notice was posted seeking vendors for snowplowing, road repairs, and dredging.

F. Presentation of Correspondence and Communications:

B. Swanson is reviewing records for the two properties on Lake Road wishing to be included in the district and is communicating with the owners. Emails were received concerning boats not on racks, blight on Hillsdale, keeping sand on Meadowbrook, and removing brush and stones on intersection of Bush Rd and West Island Beach Rd.

G. Receive President's Report:

Addressed new board issuesandcommented on standing committees. The board needs to determine which committees to keep or change and if new committees will be added. A board member will chair each committee.

Communications are effective and will be added to and improved upon. We use as many types of media as possible. We need someone to help with the website and other communication issues.

Security has introduced changes and has a budget. Need to discuss—how much security do residents want?

Projects are coming up in the future (dredging, etc.) Volunteers are always needed on all committees.

Thank you to the board for their dedication and hard work.

H. Receive Treasurer's Report:

Doing very well. New accounts have been formed—Invasive plant, rainy day, etc.

Our assets are growing. The ALD insurance coverage was increased to \$5 million and may be increased in the near future. See website for complete financials.

It was stated that the fish fund should be a line item in the budget.

Comment: The fish fund was set up for those residents who fish and does not burden the residents who are not interested in fishing. At the time, this seemed right. Will take the line item suggestion under advisement.

I. Receive Tax Collector's Report:

Many residents are paying entire tax amount in one payment. Both towns had a drop in mill rate. All reports are now on the website under tax collector.

J. Receive Lake Management Report:

We are seeking volunteers to do certain lake management work (testing H₂O, speaking with Dr. Knoecklein and associate, working with D. Martin, etc.). The board is all about keeping the lake clean.

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

Security

Security issues cover four seasons. In the summer season, there are 5 people on the team. A sixth person will be added to do patrols of the ROW's. Two security people are at the beaches 5 hours each on Saturday and Sunday. Three people are on weekdays for three hours a day. In Winter and Spring, Carl Wool has done security and will continue doing so. Fall and Spring have less activity.

Email to be drafted to inform residents on dates for Fire Dept. rescue practices.

Dam

Carl wool brought up issues with the duck pond dam area. It needs cleaning because of debris left by the beaver, accumulated mud, and vegetation. Step 1 is to clean all the brush, etc. so the water can flow easily.

Storm Drains

Need to review report for H-11. There seems to be several different problems and would be done in stages. This will involve the towns. It is not a small issue.

R. DeCormier and L. Lenti, will meet with D. O'Brien to put together a plan for the next meeting.

Boats and Rafts

We may need an extra boat rack at Lollipop. L. Lenti will check all the boat rack areas as to how the racks are used and report at next meeting.

Mooring: The committee has identified places to moor boats with no negative remarks so far. We're still in the development stage and need more input from the committee and residents.

Weeds and Algae

ACT is the vendor that treated the lake with herbicide several times. They take a surgical approach with the application of herbicides, etc. The process needs a permit. It is done every other year. The area by Lollipop Cove cannot be treated because it is too close to a well. There might be another way to eliminate the growth (lily pads).

Communications

We do not use social media because it calls for an interactive approach-back and forth. It would be a challenge and would not be feasible right now. We are volunteers, it takes a lot of time to put together all the drafts, letters, email blasts, etc.

Lebanon Roads

The water company will fix the meter on Beech Road by the end of August.

The LRC meets every month. They have rated the roads and put together 3 projects, so far. Project 1 will be to bring Manion Road, Kelly's Corner, and Ryan Terrace into a condition of good repair which includes adding processed aggregate, grading, and forming ditches. Project 2 is to trim the brush on the intersection of Bush road and West island Beach to improve sightline.

R. DeCormier made a motion to approve project 1 and project 2 and to remove a dead tree. B Lederer seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Project 3 will be brought to the next meeting.

Beach and ROW update

Large stones were placed at Cove ROW to hinder vehicles from entering.

There is a need for process and edging at Lollipop parking lot entrance. Will bring to next meeting.

There are three Meadowbrook issues: Need to discuss:

1. Buildup of sand in front of A.Fichtel's property--cleanout when lake is lowered?
2. Grass or sand ? French Drain? Extend rock levee?
3. Storm Drain is too high for water runoff to enter. Needs grading.

A motion was made by M. Paul to spend up to \$1500 for Joe Polulech to recommend comprehensive solutions to fix Meadowbrook ROW. Seconded by B. Pelegano. All approved. Motion carried.

Calendar and Tasks

We are up to date on tasks. Some tasks can be changed or moved on calendar. Need to assign committees to board members.

L. Act on Remaining items on Agenda--Old Business;

Discussion of the two Lake Road properties to rejoin the Amston Lake District. The board will check with the lawyer. B. Pelegano made a motion to ask the lawyer if the board can do this, if it will open the flood gates for other properties, and, if granted, what obligation does the board have to put it in the land records and by-laws. Seconded by B. Lederer. All approved. Motion carried.

The dredging project at Ames Road is coming together. Permission by the property owner is needed.

The SE Cove study is all set. An RFP has been sent out. The lake might be lowered up to 30 inches for this work to be done.

M. New Business:

Nothing to report

N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting:

New members on the board need to decide what committees to participate in by next meeting.

O. Adjournment:

B. Lederer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by M. Gut. All approved

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by
Claire Lenti, Clerk
Amston Lake District