

Amston Lake District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
March 16th, 2011 7:00 p.m.
ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, 06231
www.AmstonLake.org

A. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: D. O'Brien, L. Hennebury, R. DeCormier, S. Martin, D. Martin, D. Moorcroft, L. Lenti, S. Forgue

Absent: J. Connor

B. Call to Order 7:00 pm

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

Lynn Mika, 27 Ames Road, Hebron - request to add to budget; safety fence was installed on one side of dam but not other due to repairs occurring to dam; can the Board please add the installation of one more fence with pool grade chain link so cannot be climbed; need about a 6 ft section – copy of last cost provided; asking the Board to include \$1000 to install second fence to stop access to dam spillway

M. Motion made by R. DeCormier to move ACT forward in the agenda to this point – second by D. Moorcroft; All approved unanimously. Dominic Meringolo from ACT is here to discuss actions to take if invasive weed is discovered in the lake; Discussion Point handout provided – S. Martin to create a plan of action for insertion into Board of Director binders

Hydrilla is issue lately in the area surrounding us; If find unrecognized plant, need to identify species of plant – pull it out and contact Dr. Knocklein or ACT or State Dept of Agriculture/Greg Bugbee; once found, would need to scour the lake with a thorough survey; reality is that once an invasive plant gets in, there is a very slim chance of eradicating it; we should have vegetation maps and plans for eradication; ACT would work with us to get any needed permits for treatment; state does not jump to treat quickly in CT so we are lucky we are private and can act as needed; D. Martin - State of CT Dept of Agriculture is interested in coming and doing another plant survey this year – has been 5 years; benthic barriers can be effective if plants are in specific area(s); takes about one month to go through the DEP approval process; use supplier's ability to get permits approved – ask for help with documents; where treating, what treating, treatment and amount of treatment product being used; copper based treatments persist indefinitely – all others break down over a period of time; treatments can run \$300 per acre to \$1500 per acre depending upon treatment needed; ACT does provide a "that season" guarantee; we will draft a process and have ACT look at and agree to it and add it to the Board of Directors binders; the best way to stop the problem is to not get it; keep protecting the lake and looking at the plant life; stay vigilant in plant reviews

D. Laurel Hennebury made a motion to move J.5. Consider and Act Upon Standing and Special Committees' Reports, Boats and Rafts, to this point in agenda for S. Forgue; Lou Lenti seconded. All approved.

Barley Straw has been ordered from Stillpond Farm – 36 bales to K. Grady's area and 14 bales to Clubhouse.

A resident offered \$250 for mower; we need to auction it so that all residents have equal ability to purchase; run it for auction on eBay – send announcement to announce group to bid on eBay site; run for one week at starting price of \$99.99 and pick up will be required – Scott Forgue will take this task

Docks: Will include raffle info in newsletter; \$100 price for season for dock slips – what is the right price? Started at \$70 and had empty spaces last year at \$100 – how much should be charged to fill the slips? Not much difference and we need to cover maintenance costs which wer not included in original pricing quotes; there are size limitations for boats using docks; we will stay at \$100 seasonal fee if selected in raffle; draw lottery winners at April meeting so can move into slips in May; slips will be replaced by May 15th for seasonal use

E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – D. Martin moved to accept minutes as presented, Lou Lenti second, Laurel Hennebury abstained. All others approved.

F. Receive and Act Upon Clerk's Report – nothing to report

G. Presentation of Correspondence and Communication – subjects covered were ALA Budget Request, Webmaster interest, barley straw planning, discussions around Special Meeting to procure land and Lebanon Sewer discussions – email copies are in Clerk's files

H. Receive President's Report – D. O'Brien – thanked Mike Smith publicly for his gracious support and efforts in the past and his agreement to keep providing webmaster services while we search for a replacement

I. Receive Treasurer's Report – R. DeCormier – savings can be seen now when comparing costs for 2010 versus 2011

J. Receive Tax Collector's Report – D. O'Brien read Eileen Curtin's report out loud – see attached

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

1. Dam – D. Moorcroft - we are up to spillway and lake is full; weir boards will be added soon to maintain lake level; drawings are being produced and will be complete prior to next meeting; K. Acimovic, our dam engineer, is working with DEP to determine permit needed; need to put 12 – 15" concrete slab face on the dam; spillway is leaking and needs to be cleared out and replaced with a 6-8" surface of impermeable surface; this would solve dam issues for many years; valve will be removed and filled with cement so cannot leak

2. Storm Drains – D. O'Brien – Town of Hebron is holding on special projects given the extraordinary winter and costs associated with clearing snow and ice; hope budget will get freed up soon; R. DeCormier – what about Lebanon storm drains? Historically, have done lots of work on all storm drains on both sides of the lake; low pressure sewer installation does not cut up the roads in such a way that storm drains could be installed; topography of lake in each town differs; Hebron has large hills running down toward the lake and Lebanon does not; large amounts of water running directly into the lake are priority for storm water control; a storm water engineering study was done on Hebron side
 3. Lebanon Sewer Project – D. Martin – preliminary design is done; 307 properties to be hooked up; easements in process for each property; Feb 26th had Lebanon WPCS/Sewer meeting in clubhouse – attended by about 50 residents; individualized plot plans were given to each attendee to show where septic and water are currently located; Bolton Lake resident stated that Fuss & O'Neill has been very accommodating to work with during their sewer installation
 4. Drinking Water – nothing to report
 5. Boats & Rafts – covered above; D. O'Brien wants us to consider going to two year cycle for our passes for both the boats and beach passes – will save about \$1500 per year or 50% cost savings; Concerned that residents who move can still use passes as they are not taken away and there has been a lot of real estate turning over; L. Hennebury - we are tracking passes this year, why don't we wait until we have more data to make a decision? Board wants to see what we get for info when passes are distributed this year; decided to continue one year passes for now; R. DeCormier created Boat Pass Request Form – changes were agreed upon to capture specific boat info including manufacturer, type of boat, color and length of boat to aid in finding owners of lost boats
 6. Weeds and Algae - include ultrasonic units – do we want to treat the lake this year? L. Hennebury – there are a couple of areas which were not treated last year that we should consider – keep monies in budget, in case need to treat; many expressed desire to wait until next year – we will see if and where large quantities of lilies grow this year and decide then
 7. Communications – R. DeCormier – Mike Smith has decided to resign as webmaster; he will remain on board until the Board finds a replacement; an announcement was sent to residents and proposals and responses were received; looks like cost will be about \$2000 per year for us to hire someone; should we get competitive pricing from other companies? We would prefer to stay with a resident, if possible. Put \$2,000 place holder in budget and move ahead with selection process; Lynn Mika thinks we should consider template websites which are editable versus developing a whole new website – would be more self-maintained; look at Yahoo; dashboard technology – want to be sure we can assume control of website back from individual; can hire a website designer to put together a dashboard based solution to minimize design and maintenance costs
 8. Ordinances – nothing to report; look for email from last month regarding enforcement of ordinances written by Mark Paul in 2009; review and work to make part of policies and procedures – D. O'Brien will resend for review and discussion/approval at next meeting
 9. Security – D. O'Brien read report from John LeFairer – see attached
 10. Lebanon Roads – D. Martin – costs were about 40% over the fixed contract due to the vast amounts of snow; have \$7000 to \$8000 left in Lebanon Road Fund – for both snowplowing and road repair thru June 2011. D. Martin will do some research and determine if we should stay with same budget or more; consider fuel costs too; R. DeCormier wants target for Lebanon Road Fund Reserve; do Special Meeting Notice for April road review.
 11. Calendar and Tasks – R. DeCormier – add installing the docks into the May calendar around mid month – installation for Memorial Day use; newsletter info must be complete and submitted to L. Mika by May 1st
- L. Receive Lake Management Reports – D. O'Brien – George Knoecklein to send annual lake health report in April; D. Martin wants to take on water quality testing as a volunteer; Kevin Grady has the testing equipment
- M. Act on Remaining Items of Agenda....Old Business
1. ALD Self Help Document – revisit next meeting
 2. Boat, Beach and Car Passes: Discuss Distribution Process – L. Mika will work on setup of newsletter for us; submit articles to be considered; will be handing out newsletter, handbook and passes at the clubhouse on specific dates (10 Saturdays scheduled by R. DeCormier); ALA will help with distribution – will start on May 21st and will work on varying Saturdays and Sundays from 9 to 11 am; passes to be set up for one year; 800 boats passes, 750 lots need beach passes and car passes (two of each per lot)
- M. New Business.....Discussion and Possible Action
1. Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT) - Dominic Meringolo; he has been invited to discuss how we should handle an invasive plant species, if we were to discover one – moved up to beginning of agenda
 2. Add ALA Budget Support request to the agenda – L. Hennebury wants to understand why all expenses are needed so can justify approving increase in support to ALA – should relook at tasks and prioritize need versus nice to have; Per Dan Reynolds, Drew Gibson/President of ALA, will attend April meeting to clarify and discuss
- N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting
- Add Enforcement of Ordinances document for review and possible approval by the Board under New Business
 - Need to know who is up for renewal of terms for the Board of Directors and who is planning to come back or not for planning for the annual meeting
 - Add ALA Budget Request review to New Business
- O. Adjournment 9:40 L. Hennebury motioned to adjourn, L. Lenti seconded

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