

**ANNUAL MEETING
MINUTES
Amston Lake District
May 17, 2014 7:00 P.M.
ALA Clubhouse
Wood Acres Road, Amston, CT 06231**

www.amstonlake.org

- A. Role call of Officers and Directors
Present: Dave O'Brien, Frank Hoisl, Ray DeCormier, Dave Moorcroft, Mark Paul, Claire Lenti, Dave Martin, Lou Lenti, Sherri-Ann Martin
- B. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by D. O'Brien at 7:00 pm. He reviewed the rules of the meeting and introduced the Board of Directors to the public.
- C. Approve 5-18-13 Annual Meeting Minutes
Dave Moorcroft made a motion to accept the minutes of the 5-18-13 Annual Meeting as submitted. Mark Paul seconded the motion. K. Diver and K. Wax abstained. All others approved. The motion passes.
- D. Board of Directors Report of Activities for the 2013 – 2014 Year
Summary:
1. Large amount of snow during the season affected the Lebanon Road Budget. We are now paying based on inches so more fair to us and the contractor. Would like help from Lebanon residents who live on the gravel roads to deal with ongoing maintenance.
2. Security concerns – people trespassing on District Properties; throwing items into the lake, underage drinking, open camp fires, etc.
3. By-law changes are to come up for vote in August. Meetings will be held for residents.
4. Boat racks – (20) have been installed around the lake on the beaches and ROWs.
- E. Treasurer's Report
1. Currently have \$241,000 in the bank. Last year ended with a balance of \$167,000. Frugal spending and volunteerism have increased our general fund.
2. Brian Swanson is new tax collector. His pursuit of past due taxes has increased collections by \$15,000 to \$20,000 over the budget amount for the year.
3. Financial Report is listed on the website and includes a list of all checks written.
- F. Tax Collector's Report
See attached – read into the record by D. O'Brien
- G. Elect Directors for the ALD Board of Directors
Drew Gibson made a motion to re-elect the following for their listed terms:
Dave Martin – 3 years
Sherri-Ann Martin – 3 years
Ray DeCormier – 3 years
Claire Lenti – 2 years (filling term vacated by Steve Cormier)
Laurel Hennebury seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

H. Elect Officers for the ALD Board of Directors

Barbara Lederer made a motion to re-elect the following officers:

Dave O'Brien – President
Frank Hoisl – Vice President
Sherri-Ann Martin – Clerk

John Daviau seconded the motion. All approved unanimously.

I. Consider and act upon the proposed budget for FY 2014 – 2015

1. Lebanon Road Fund – Lebanon Residents vote only

Ron Niemczyk made a motion to approve \$34,000 for the Lebanon Road Budget for FY 2014 – 2015. Mark Paul seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Bob DiBella – why did we not pursue FEMA funding for catastrophic snow fall? Should be able to get back 75% of the cost. R. DeCormier stated that he provided the information to the State of CT but never heard back from them. L. Hennebury wanted to know if we can still go after the FEMA funding? If any residents know, please help. M. Paul and R. DeCormier promised to follow up again with the State of CT.

Ron Niemczyk – Kelly's Corner, Lebanon: the bottom of his driveway washes out each spring due to water which naturally runs through the area; at end of winter, 80 ft. area is ice or slush. D. O'Brien requested he bring the information to our next Regular Meeting so we can address it specifically.

In the event of any catastrophic road event, a Special District Meeting would be held to spend funds on the Lebanon Roads. We do not have any reserve funds in this account.

(17) Lebanon residents approved the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Full Budget-all residents vote

Barbara Lederer made a motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 2014 – 2015 at \$189,256 as detailed in attached budget plan. Dave Moorcroft seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Leo Foxwell and Laurel Hennebury wanted to know when the Southeast Cove would be dredged; D. O'Brien stated that a study would need to be conducted to determine what needs to be done to clean out this area, then Board must approve and permitting can take up to 1 months. D. Martin stated that it was next on the list but was not considered a problem area as it does not have same issues as Northeast Cove, Francis Cove or Southwest Coves. D. O'Brien committed to having the study done as soon as possible. Cost is \$1500 and can be done out of current year's budget. D. O'Brien to follow up with map and info the L. Hennebury and L. Foxwell.

B. DiBella – last year Board did not get permit from DEEP to treat lily pads; will it happen this year? M. Paul – yes, it will happen this year. Last year, ACT, our vendor, did not apply for permits in time. Permit request for this year has already been filed. Treatment is to happen and is in budget. It takes 9 months to obtain a dredging permit (process needs to be approved by Town Wetlands Commission, State of CT DEEP and the Army Corp of Engineers).

Nancy Carini – also owns a home on Bolton Lake. They spent \$70,000 of resident funds and a \$250,000 grant from the State of CT to treat their lake for milfoil/invasive species. It is a good precaution to have the additional funds we hold in the General Fund. D. Martin stated that we have one of cleanest lakes in CT and we need to continue to inspect boats and trailers entering our lake. Fishing boats are of greatest concern if they are traveling between lakes. We need to be sure not a bit of invasive plant enters our lake.

B. DiBella – why haven't ambient lights been installed at Lollipop Beach to stop drug issues and people hanging out? D. Martin – we live in The Last Green Valley and the town of Lebanon is supporting that concept and eliminating street lights. We are the last area in CT that is dark at night from the sky. It is natural and good for our environment. Also, lighting attracts people to hang out. Many of us do not want additional lighting.

A vote was taken on the Budget motion: All approved the budget unanimously.

- J. Establish Date for the 2015 District Annual Meeting
Drew Gibson made a motion to hold the 2015 Annual District Meeting on May 16, 2105. D. Moorcroft seconded the motion.

R. DeCormier wanted to state that we agree that we will hold the annual meeting on the second or third Saturday in May. D. O'Brien stated that by statute, we are required to approve our budget at least 10 days before the close of the fiscal year and we need to pick a date.

All unanimously approved the motion.

- K. Consider and act upon any business that may come before the District
Marge Arnold – is the establishment of a boat trailer parking area still being considered? Yes, the Board is in process of getting an area set up on West Island Beach Rd. on District Owned Properties. C. Lenti, S. Martin and D. Martin in process of getting agreement and vendor bids.

Kathy Garvey-Will the hay bales be removed at the end of the season? D. Martin responded yes, the hay is not disintegrating in all places so will be removed. He discussed with Dr. Knocklein, our lake scientist, and he agrees they should be removed.

Gerry Horan-Can't a ballot be given to each family to vote on By-Law changes? D. O'Brien – we cannot do that, by statute, all voters must be present at our meetings.

Mark Paul – we are trying to bring By-Laws up to date. There aren't any big changes. He will publish the By-Law changes to the website for resident review prior to holding the vote in August.

Joyce Clark – what about the dock stuck on the rock in front of her property? F. Hoisl gave the resident until 5/30/14 to remove the dock. If it is not removed, the District will pay to have it removed and bill the resident.

B. DiBella – there is a new act in the State of CT on voting in municipalities; make sure there is no effect on the By-Laws

- L. Adjournment
Dave Martin made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm. Mark Paul seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri-Ann Martin
Amston Lake Tax District
Clerk