

# AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

## MINUTES

July 20, 2016 7:00 PM

ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, CT 06231

[www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org)

### A. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

M. Paul, F. Hoisl, A. Connor, R. DeCormier, B. Pelegano, M. Gut, B. Blackmore, L. Lenti, C. Lenti  
Tax collector: E. Curtin

### B. Call to Order:

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

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

Janet Garrett, 14 Cove Road, Lebanon, CT.

Can the new board members be introduced?

Comment: The new board members are Anita Connor and Bob Blackmore.

Sandra Berteen, 283 Deepwood Dr. Amston, CT.

Will discuss any addition of sand to her property under Beaches and Rows.

Gail Golden, 203 Deepwood Dr. Amston, CT

Will the barley straw that we took out of the lake be removed from Cove row?

Comment: Discuss under Beaches and Rows.

Carl Wool, 182 Deepwood Dr, Amston, CT.

A boat was loose and ended up at Lollipop. I notified the owner. Several young people were at Ryan Terrace. I spoke with them and reminded them to clean up when they leave. They were very nice and cooperative. Who should I contact for security problems?

Comment: We will discuss this under Security.

Also, there is a very large tree at the trailer parking area that is a safety hazard.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Dr, Amston, CT

Could we start a petition to put money aside for a pavilion?

Comment: Marge Nichols leads a committee concerning a pavilion. The committee is working on a process to be presented in the future. She will give her report under Special Committee Reports.

Kevin Grady, 199 Deepwood Dr., Amston, CT

Much goose poop has been noticed on the shoreline. Maybe we can get volunteers to clean it up.

Al Fichtel volunteered to look around the area and rake it up, if necessary.

### D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Discussion of Dr. Knoecklein's contribution and payment in the last few years.

A motion was made by M. Gut to approve the June 15, 2016 minutes. Seconded by L. Lenti. Seven board members approved, two abstained.

**E. Receive President's Report:**

Several good things have happened lately. Anita Connor and Bob Blackmore joined the board, Eileen Curtin is the new tax collector and Bob Blackmore and Al Fichtel have been trained in lake testing.

We had a fireworks problem lately. We all live at this lake and don't want to lose it because of a problem such as fireworks. ALD's insurance for fireworks displays would be extremely expensive. Last Saturday night, fireworks were launched from a barge in the middle of the lake by a resident. This was done without permission. The ALD district could be sued, we do not want this to happen. This behavior should not be tolerated. Our ordinances state that no fireworks are to be shot off anywhere on Amston Lake property, including the district waters.

Discussion followed.

**F. Receive Treasurer's Report**

The financial booklet was handed out to board members and discussed. It is straightforward. Discussion followed. All information is on the website. The rainy day fund is 50% of the operating budget. Some money will be moved after all taxes are collected. A. Connor stated that an updated accounting package is needed. The cost is about \$250. A key for a safe deposit box seems to be missing and needs to be found. She suggested putting together a check list and procedure manual so that another person could use it, if necessary.

**G. Receive Tax collector's Report:**

E. Curtin gave the tax report and gave a copy to board members. She explained the tax collecting. All information is on the website.

**H. Receive Clerk's Report:**

The new board member list has been given to board members and should be on the website soon. Over 500 passes and over 1400 boat passes were given out to residents. Emails were sent to residents concerning bench donations, no fireworks, no dogs on the beaches, ALA events, and vendors for snow plowing, road repair and other projects. The treasurer and clerk checked out the ALD storage area. Also, a letter concerning a variance on building on 418 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon, Ct was read.

**I. Presentation of Correspondence:**

Emails were received concerning an invasive plant, new beach at SW cove, tree fallen at the trailer parking area, dog on the row, fireworks, lake testing, bales of barley straw on cove row, and a neighborhood watch sign removed. The DEEP plan for the dam was signed and will proceed.

**J. Receive Lake Management Report/Review Goals and Objectives:**

B. Blackmore will be in charge of lake testing. He spoke with Dr. Knoecklein who stated he didn't remember advising/working with Amston Lake since 2012, however, the treasurer stated that he was paid in 2015 for some work done.

M. Paul, B. Blackmore, and A. Fichtel met and discussed a plan to move forward to test and assess lake health. Dr. Knoecklein trained B. Blackmore, and A. Fichtel on lake testing

It is very important to find the status of the lake as it stands now. Can we have Dr. Knoecklein do a yearly assessment? We need to know assessment costs and option ,etc.

Discussion followed.

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

##### Lebanon Roads

An email was sent looking for bids from vendors for road repair. Received 2 responses so far. Another email blast will be sent.

##### Pavilion

Marge Nichols read the pavilion report which included research on zoning, wetlands, taking photos of several pavilions, ALA interest, contacting construction contractors on costs, security systems, etc. Marge felt that since only two members remained on the committee and that it would be difficult to put a pavilion in the budget in the next few years, she is currently putting the pavilion committee on hold while she considers if and how to proceed.

Comment: If there is an interest in a pavilion by the residents, it can be brought to the annual meeting for a vote on how much to spend. Some ball park figures would be helpful.

##### Security

B. Pelegano is now the head of security He will meet with the resigning security head to obtain the security information, etc. We need contacts to call if there is a problem.

Discussion followed.

Concerning the fireworks that were shot from a platform in the lake. A resident was very concerned about the debris from the fireworks falling onto the solar panels and the roof of his house. Pictures were taken the next morning of residents taking the firework debris/platform off a boat.

A discussion of liability and safety followed.

A motion was made by M. Gut to "notify the party responsible for violating ordinance 2008.17b to determine the appropriate fine according to our ordinances and to consult with our attorney about restitution for damage to non-ALD property." Seconded by R. DeCormier. All approved.

##### Communications

The cleanup of the website is an on going process.

Comment: We could put a status report on the website on projects, etc. occurring around the lake. Maybe, a monthly report to residents would be advisable.

Also, some residents cannot open files associated with the ALD website.

##### Dam/Duck Pond

The DEEP letter concerning the dam was approved and signed. We need recommendations for the structure of the duck pond also. The brush on top and along the water outlet needs to be cut.

Comment: Will get a quote for brush cutting.

##### Boats, Docks, and Rafts

Thank you to Dave Arnold for his work and support on the new docks.

Comment: We should have a railing on the dock at Lollipop. Also, we need to fix the two steps to the boat dock at the Main Beach area.

D. Arnold stated that we spend too much on the boat/trailer inspection. Some people bring boats in and out of the lake too many times. One suggestion is to have these residents be an inspector.

The buoys were placed at sunken island. They should be in year round. A couple of concrete blocks are needed for the docks during the winter.

#### Beaches and Rows

Sandra Berteen explained the sand on her property. The sand was there when she purchased her property. She cleaned up the area, removed the weeds, etc. and did not add a beach.

We will have enough donations for three benches. As soon as all the donations are received, the benches will be ordered. Some trees need to be removed, possibly this fall. A committee met to discuss all the signage on the beaches and rows. A final decision has not been made yet.

The 15 bales of barley straw will be removed by Al Fichtel and Gail Golden for \$200.

A reminder that residents must pick up after their dogs.

#### Finance

Volunteers for the finance committee would be appreciated, especially starting in February when the budget process for next year begins.

#### Calendar and Tasks

We are on task for July.

#### **L. Old Business---Discussion and Possible Action**

ALA Clubhouse—D. Gibson is getting information on costs for the clubhouse. He may need assistance for the cost of roof repairs.

Ordinance update is moved to next month's meeting.

#### **M. New Business—Discussion and Possible Action**

Add a line item for the fish fund on the budget.

#### **N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting.**

Nothing to add

#### **O. Adjournment:**

M. Gut made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by R. DeCormier. All approved

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Claire Lenti, Clerk

Amston Lake District