

## **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

June 19, 2019 7:00 P.M.

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

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

### **A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

### **B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors**

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, T. LaMontagne, N. Nurge, M. Dagon, A. Stec, B. Lederer.

### **C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

B. Pelegano moved to approve the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by M. Dagon. L. Bowen requested to correct the first sentence under Treasurer's Report to say "April" financial statements, instead of "March." The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

### **D. Presentation of Correspondence**

1. The ALD received a letter from the Douglas Library, thanking us for the \$25 donation for use of the community room for our annual meeting. 2. A resident asked if her tenants could bring their own kayaks for the week. The answer was yes, as long as they followed the "clean, drain and dry" protocol. 3. F. Hoisl was contacted again about additional ALD dock space. 4. Resident at 193 Deepwood (near H-11) in Hebron reported lots of algae in their area and questioned if we had really gotten barley straw this year or was it something else. F. Hoisl responded that this would be discussed at the next Lake Health Committee meeting. Aquatic Ecosystems Research (AER) has reported that they are seeing more algae in the lakes they monitor this year due to the mild winter and heavy rain this spring. 5. F. Hoisl responded to a homeowner regarding adding a basement to the new house they are building. 6. B. Pelegano received a request from a resident to have a party at Main Beach, which he approved with the stipulation that visitors can't park their cars in the lot. 7. M. Dagon was contacted by a resident wondering whose responsibility it is for trees that have fallen into the lake from a resident's property.

### **E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Loose raft/dock removals: The rogue dock at Cove ROW has been removed. B. Pelegano will send the owner a letter notifying them of them of the fine and requesting reimbursement to the ALD.
2. Lollipop brush removal: A resident notified the BOD that it seemed that a large area of brush had recently been stripped near the entrance to Lollipop Beach. M. Dagon said that it was done last year by BASE Construction and confirmed that it had not been authorized.
3. Ryan Terrace ROW: B. Lederer reported that the plan for Ryan Terrace was presented to the Lebanon Inland Wetlands Commission on June 3, followed by

a site visit June 11. An issue the commissioners raised was that they might require a 6" pipe for the curtain drain, rather than 4"; additionally they might require that the stone dust path have timbers buried at intervals to help divert water. The engineer should finalize the latest drawings in the next week, and believes the IWC will approve the plan at the July 8 IWC meeting. B. Lederer said they have two contractor quotes already and should have more for the July BOD meeting. F. Hoisl stated that he wants to call a Special District meeting to vote on this project in August so we'll need to have a price and a recommendation from the Board for the residents before then.

#### **F. Task List and Action Items**

F. Hoisl went over the outstanding items for June. The possibility of auctioning the boats that were removed from the beaches and ROWs last fall was discussed, but ultimately it was agreed that the few remaining boats were in such poor shape, that for the amount of work, we were better off just trying to give the boats away via eblast. Final letters to the owners were mailed June 11, and the owners have 20 days to pay their fines before the boats are given away.

#### **G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners**

Mike Smith, 197 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

He met with F. Hoisl to discuss the algae in the water near Bass Lake Road and H-11. He distributed photos from 2017 to the BOD, showing how the lake cleared up after straw bales were put in the water. In the past, the practice was to break up the bales and put them in permeable bags and stake them to the lake bottom, which was very labor-intensive. More recently, the District has put the whole bales in the water, which has also seemed to work; however, this year it is not as effective. His preference would be to ask the residents at the affected properties to put them in permeable bags. F. Hoisl responded that AER said that because of the mild winter and heavy rain, the algae is abundant at all the lakes that they are monitoring. The District is considering joining the CT Federation of Lakes – it would be helpful to know what other lakes are experiencing.

M. Dagon suggested that we send an eblast to the community to remind people of the detrimental effects of using fertilizer.

Linda Mathieu, 28 Manion Ln, Lebanon

1. She asked whose responsibility it is to trim the branches that grow into the private roads. They are growing from empty lots into the drive lane. A. Connor suggested that Ms. Mathieu can find the owners on the GIS maps via the town website and contact them. 2. At the corner of Deepwood and Manion is a tree that's growing around the street sign and pulling it down. A. Stec said that since it's a town sign she would have to check with them.

John Mathieu, 28 Manion Ln, Lebanon

He asked who is responsible for the roads? He says there's an ongoing erosion problem on Manion Lane and that the material washes down across Deepwood Drive. He wonders if we are using the proper material for the roads. A. Stec responded that they are in the process of investigating that particular road because it needs to be fixed

so often, and that they are working with the Lake Health Committee to put a plan in place. She encouraged Mr. Mathieu to join the Lebanon Roads Committee.

Doug Bowen, 156 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

At last month's BOD meeting a director stated that the entire 50' width of Ryan Terrace ROW was going to be disturbed to repair the erosion problem. However, the engineer that we have hired stated at the IWC meeting that was not the case and that it would only be disturbed up to the southern boundary of the proposed path.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

1. He reported that the security guards don't seem to be leaving when it rains. He has seen them there on really bad days with no one on the beach. B. Pelegano stated that he does his best to anticipate and cancel when it's going to rain but the company needs a certain amount of notice. 2. Another fish survey by the DEEP was done May 23, with only a slight improvement in the bass numbers, but he is still waiting for the official results.

3. Over the summer, the DEEP would like to do a study on channel catfish and Al suggested Amston Lake to them as a location. 4. He is not sure about the efficacy of using the straw bales to control the algae, but said that we would need 3 bales per acre or about 600 bales. (We purchased 40 this year.)

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

She offered compliments to the Board for the 2019 newsletter. She especially enjoyed the clever geese and ducks references. L. Bowen gave design credit to A. Stec's wife, Jess Downa, and thanked her for donating her time.

Tony Rigazio-Digilio, 190 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

Regarding the straw bales – his understanding is that it takes 2-3 months of decomposition for the barley straw to work, so it's too late to add any more now. He thinks it would be helpful if the Board sent an eblast with a paragraph or two telling residents how to deal with the algae in front of their homes.

#### **H. Receive President's Report**

F. Hoisl stated that recently some ideas have been raised for possible committees. The BOD is very active and needs to weigh the priorities, with some items possibly falling under existing committees. He will bring some recommendations to the next BOD meeting and create a standard charter for committees to use in the future. A director should chair each committee and he would like the minutes for all the committees to be posted on the website, so that we don't waste time at BOD meetings. B. Lederer said that we need to differentiate between standing and ad hoc committees.

#### **I. Receive Treasurer's and Tax Collector's Reports**

1. A. Connor has issued the May financial statements, which have been posted to the website. 2. She reported that we have covered the Ryan Terrace ROW costs to date, as well as the entire Oakland repair. 3. The bill for the insurance renewal premium of \$8416 represents a 5% increase. She would like to find a local agent to quote our insurance for next year. 4. The dock coordinator reported that all the slips are filled this year. 5. A. Connor reminded all contractors and vendors to submit invoices by July 10 so that she can close out the books for this fiscal year. 6. The Tax Collector's report is

also on the website. 7. The legal notice for the ALD tax bills has been posted at the town halls, on the signboards around the lake, and the bills themselves will be mailed out soon.

8. A new computer has been purchased for the Tax Collector's use.

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

F. Hoisl stated that there are four topics that are under consideration to form new committees: hiring a lake manager, dam inspections, allowing dogs on the beaches and ROWs, and adding dock space. The dog issue would require updating our ordinances. A lake manager is something that should be considered and we'll need to define the scope of work. Inspecting the dam is a requirement. A. Fichtel says he's read the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and doesn't believe we need to go to the expense of hiring a professional engineer to do the inspections, but F. Hoisl will call engineer Karl Acimovic to get a price on the dam inspection for this year.

1. Finance: The Finance Committee has not met since the last BOD meeting so there is no report. They will not meet again until the fall unless something comes up.
2. Lake Health: 1. The minutes of the committee meeting have been posted to the website. 2. A small group met with engineer Joe Polulech to see where additional plunge pools might be put in. 3. AER will be at the lake for a whole day to look at the NE cove and the invasive weeds and give recommendations. They will also look at H-11, and the cove north of Lollipop. 4. The committee made a recommendation to get the District's attorney involved for the 18 Lebanon properties that have not connected to sewers, approximately 9-10 of which are on Deepwood Drive. They also discovered that 2 Deepwood, Lebanon has a USDA exemption, but is their septic up to code? F. Hoisl will follow up with the WPCA. 5. L. Bowen reported that there is a portion of a stand of cattails in front of 30 Deepwood in Lebanon that appear to have been poisoned.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. Two boat racks have been added – one at Elsmere ROW in Hebron, and one at Spafford ROW in Lebanon. 2. Oakland ROW erosion repair is complete and the grass has grown in. 3. The committee meets on the second Thursday of the month through December. 4. The bench at Cove ROW is now very close to the water due to the erosion of the sand. 5. Lollipop Beach is becoming full of stones as we have not added sand in a few seasons.
4. Security, Boats: B. Pelegano addressed both of these topics earlier in the meeting.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. A. Stec reported that there is still a small surplus, which will be carried over into next year's budget. 2. She is working with the Lake Health Committee to develop a strategy to deal with runoff on the private roads.
6. Signs: It was suggested that when a new director takes over the Sign Committee, they consider adding a sign at both Main and Lollipop beaches saying that parking is not allowed without the ALD hang tag.

7. Communications: E. Bowen reported that the newsletter is being distributed with the boat passes and is also available on the website. A new website is coming soon.
8. Dry hydrants: T. LaMontagne reported that Lebanon fire chief Alan Olenick will don a dry suit and investigate locations at Main and Lollipop beaches for the hydrants. Although the duck pond was considered, it's relatively shallow, and the hydrants need 5-6 feet of water to work so the location they're considering at Main Beach is near the boat ramp.

**K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action**

On behalf of all members A. Connor thanked N. Nurge and M. Dagon for serving on the BOD this past year and wished them well.

**L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting**

Nothing to add at this time.

**M. Adjournment**

N. Nurge moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m., seconded by A. Stec, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Liz Bowen, Clerk  
Amston Lake District

Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.