

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 18, 2019 7:00 P.M.

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

www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, T. LaMontagne (arrived at 7:30), A. Fichtel, A. Stec, J. Greenfield. Absent: B. Lederer.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A. Fichtel moved to approve the August 21, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by J. Greenfield. Four directors approved, two abstained, and the minutes were approved as written.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. Resident M. Dagon requested that her comments from the September 7 Special Meeting be changed to say that “the Beaches and ROWs Committee and the BOD spent countless hours on coming up with a plan for this ROW” vs. what was originally written, that “she” spent countless hours. This change will be added to the next meeting of the entire District, the May 2020 annual meeting. 2. A resident requested last month that we consider adding an ordinance for summer quiet time – from noon on Saturday until 6pm Sunday. 3. F. Hoisl sent a registered letter to the residents at 30 Deepwood in Lebanon regarding the possible chemical spraying of their lakefront. He has not received a response and will attempt to contact the owners again. 4. A. Fichtel has received a few fish check-ins – people reporting on catching tagged bass. One resident reported catching a 12-pound catfish in Lollipop cove.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Ryan Terrace ROW: F. Hoisl reported that the contractor's estimated start date for the work on this ROW is September 23. Engineer Mark Reynolds will inform the town of the start date, the amounts of material being imported and exported, and give them a draft of a maintenance plan. Once the silt fence has been installed the town will give us the green light to proceed. F. Hoisl received a request for a 50% deposit from the contractor, but a few items on the contract still need to be revised. A. Connor asked if Mark Reynolds will send us a contract to oversee the project before we start and F. Hoisl responded affirmatively.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl went over the outstanding items for September and October. 1. A. Connor expects to deliver the ALD annual financial reports to the towns by September 28. 2. The barley straw bales will be removed by same contractor as last year. 3. The portable toilets will be removed by November 1. A. Fichtel will be responsible for working with the company next year. 4. We weren't able to lower the lake last year

because of all the rain, but the plan is to lower the lake this year.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Tony Rigazio-Digilio, 190 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

He thanked the Beaches & ROWs Committee for the work that they put in on the Ryan Terrace ROW project. He also congratulated the Board for how the September 7 Special Meeting was conducted. He thought the Board was brave about not taking a position on the project and leaving it for the voters to decide.

Carl Wool, 182 DW Drive

1. He has been here for 18 years and believes Lollipop Beach has never been in such poor condition. He's spoken to contractor Jeff Hatch, who thinks we should leave it as it is for now, and work on it in the spring. 2. C. Wool stated that by not cutting the brush on the sides of Lollipop, it makes access difficult for the approximately 15-20 boats that are kept there.

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Drive, Lebanon

1. Regarding C. Wool's comments, M. Nichols has heard from a fisherman who believes that bushes hanging over the water are good for fish and that they shouldn't be trimmed. 2. Regarding M. Dagon's request to change the minutes from the Special Meeting, she thinks the minutes should be approved with the changes at tonight's meeting. J. Greenfield explained that minutes are approved/amended at the next meeting of the same group, which in this case, would be the annual District meeting in May.

Pat Arnestad, 13 Woodland Drive, Lebanon

She has joined the Beaches and ROWs Committee and asked what the protocol is for getting things done. F. Hoisl responded that the monthly BOD meetings have time set aside for residents to bring things to our attention. In addition, committee chairmen can bring recommendations to the meetings. A. Connor clarified that if it falls within the budget, it doesn't necessarily need to come before the board.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl stated that he thought the Special Meeting went well, giving everyone an opportunity to voice their opinions.

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

A. Connor stated that the reports are posted on the website. She transferred money out of the Special Projects Fund and into our General Fund for the Ryan Terrace work that's already been done. She further explained that all future bills paid for Ryan Terrace will reduce the Special Projects Fund cash balance.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported that some committee members are going to attend the Lebanon WPCA meetings to help put pressure on the lake properties that haven't hooked up to the sewers. 2. Aquatic Ecosystem Research (AER) was asked about doing additional testing in some of the coves. 3. A group would

like to resurrect the old lake management plan that was done many years ago. 4. The committee would like to work with the Roads Committee on the plan for the catch basin that the engineer did for Manion Lane. 5. AER suggested that we continue to monitor the Phragmites in the NE Cove, and that the ones that have grown up on the bank are actually acting as a filter in that area and shouldn't be removed. 6. Regarding Lollipop Beach, the committee would like to work with the Beaches and ROWs Committee to come up with recommendations over the winter. B. Harlow suggested installing silt fence on all the beaches and ROWs at the end of the season as a cost-effective way to prevent sand from getting into the lake. 7. A. Connor asked F. Hoisl to look into why we haven't yet been billed by AER.

2. Beaches and ROWs: 1. B. Pelegano reported that at the September committee meeting he asked the stewards of each beach and ROW to come to the next meeting with tasks they felt needed to be done. 2. He reported that a contract was presented to him today to trim the bushes at Lollipop, which should really be done in the spring, and stressed that decisions shouldn't be a piecemeal approach, but rather part of a more comprehensive maintenance plan. 3. It was requested that a committee member be reimbursed for the photos and flyers she did for the Ryan Terrace Special Meeting. Discussion ensued about why the District is being asked to pay for the photos. B. Pelegano will bring details of these expenditures to the next BOD meeting.
3. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano stated that due to the number of problems with the security company this year, he's filed complaint with the president of the company and considering filing a complaint with the BBB. He encouraged people who saw the activity to press charges. He's considering additional options for security, possibly in addition to having guards. He'd like to ask ALD attorney Adam Cohen what the steps are to tow a car without a hang tag, and to remove a boat without a current sticker. 2. A. Fichtel asked how to identify people/ boats who shouldn't be on the lake, and how to monitor weekly renters who bring their own boats. Discussion ensued about getting appropriate signage for legal purposes and also moving the chains so that people can't park at the ROWs.
4. Signs: T. LaMontagne wrote a charter for this committee and sent to F. Hoisl for his review and approval. He will post a sign at the Ryan Terrace ROW stating the area is closed once the work begins.
5. Communications: L. Bowen reported that the web designer has completed moving most of the information from the current website to the new one, but we are still working on some design details before going live. She asked the other BOD members if there are things they'd like to see on the site that aren't currently there. Some suggestions were to include committee meeting minutes and a tab for newcomers to the community.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

Board member B. Lederer has resigned due to increased work obligations, leaving an opening on the Board. An email blast will be sent looking for a resident to fill her

position until the next election in May. The Board thanked Barbara for her service.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

A. Connor would like to add a discussion of next year's lake pass procedure – possibly adding a PO box dedicated to that purpose.

M. Adjournment

A. Connor moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by A.Fichtel, 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.