

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
February 19, 2020 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 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, A. Stec, J. Greenfield,
P. Arnestad. Absent: A. Fichtel, T. LaMontagne.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

B. Pelegano moved to approve the December 19, 2019 meeting minutes, A. Stec seconded. Six directors approved, J. Greenfield abstained and the minutes were approved as submitted.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. F. Hoisl said a resident asked about property taxes for another resident, to which he suggested that they contact the town. F. Hoisl advised a resident, concerned about cars on Main beach after hours, to call and report them to the police. 2. B. Pelegano received a response from a resident who had received a letter about boat removal, stating the boat was not his. 4. P. Arnestad said a resident was concerned about putting in more grass vs. sand on the beaches as the resident said geese are drawn to grassy areas.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. B. Pelegano brought a copy of the welcome letter for L. Bowen to review. 2. B. Pelegano stated that T. LaMontagne had an action last month to investigate towing on ALD properties. He was told the local towing companies won't tow upon request from a private entity—they will only tow if they are contacted by the state police. A. Stec asked if it makes a difference that we are a municipality. F. Hoisl said that this year the ALD will be joining the Federation of Lakes and he will ask what other lakes do with regard to towing.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl went over the task list items for February and March.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

No one asked to address the board.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl reported that he attended the Finance Committee meeting last week and they are starting the budgeting process. The work at Ryan Terrace has been completed and the town has signed off on the work. The cost came in about \$4,000 under the projected cost and the contingency funds were not needed. F. Hoisl is creating a maintenance plan for this ROW, as well as all the other ROWs. The committees will then be in charge of implementing the plans.

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

1. E. Curtin delivered hard copies of the December 2019 and January 2020 Tax Collector's report to the BOD members and L. Bowen will post them to the website.
2. The Treasurer's report has been posted to the website. A. Connor reported that because of the light snowfall this year, the Lebanon Roads fund has only used \$19K so far and has \$25K left to spend. If the money is not spent, it will keep the budget request for next year even lower.
3. She stated that although the District gave surplus funds back this year, the Finance Committee is probably not going to recommend that again next year—they would like to know more about what the recommendations are for spending on lake health and security.
4. A. Connor would like to change insurance agents and asked for recommendations for a local agent.

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

1. Finance: A. Connor reported that the committee met last week and offered to help the other committees with budgeting details.
 2. The committee suggested that the Beaches and ROWs Committee do an inventory of dead boughs on the ROWs before the trees leaf out, because we might have funds to pay for tree work in the current fiscal year.
 3. A. Connor would like to receive draft budgets from the committees before the next Finance Committee meeting on March 13. She can send out a master spreadsheet to work off of.
 4. The committee will be scheduling four meetings per year, and additional meetings will be on an as-needed basis.
 5. She reported that the District has spent approximately \$21K of the Special Projects fund, with \$29K remaining. The committee is discussing the merits of moving that money back into the General Fund, as it seems that the Lake Health Committee has some projects on the near horizon.
 6. She is looking into replacing the laptop that the Treasurer uses for ALD business.
2. Lake Health:
 1. F. Hoisl reported that the committee has begun the process of budgeting. Next year will be the second for using the services of Aquatic Environmental Research (AER).
 2. AER did a property walk this past weekend, along with a few committee members.
 3. The committee has received a draft of AER's 2019 report and when it is finalized, they've offered to present the report to the committee and possibly the BOD.
 4. Engineer Joe Polulech has done the plan for the Manion Lane project and it is in the process of being reviewed by the Lebanon town engineer. It could be an expensive project since a town road would have to be dug up.
 5. Committee member A. Fichtel made a list of the plunge pools and retention ponds most in need of attention, with Lollipop being at the top of the list. A design for this area by Engineer Polulech is expected in July.
 6. A suspect septic system of a Hebron ALD resident was inspected by Uncas Health and deemed to be in working order.
 7. The Lebanon WPCA is notifying the 12 property owners that have not connected to the sewers that they have until May to connect or the town will take action.
 8. F. Hoisl complimented the committee for the part they played in getting action on this issue by the town.
 8. The level of the lake is finally down 12 inches, which usually happens by the end of December.
3. Beaches and ROWs:
 1. B. Pelegano reported that the goal for the next meeting

on Feb 27 is to identify yearly spring and fall tasks and to know what is spent on an annual basis. Then they will negotiate each of the contractor's prices for a long-term commitment. 2. A discussion ensued about plunge pools and it was agreed that the design and installation should be under the purview and budget of the Lake Health Committee, and that Beaches and ROWs will be in charge of contracting for the maintenance. 3. Some members of this committee would like a stipend of \$50 paid to the person taking the committee meeting minutes each month. 4. Regarding the installation of barley straw, the Lake Health Committee, with guidance from AER, will make recommendations for possible ordering and location placement and the Beaches and ROWs Committee will make arrangements with a contractor for installation and removal.

4. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano reported that he has contacted six security companies, none of which are doing beach security any longer—there are new laws in place for security guards in CT. P. Arnestad offered to look into additional companies. B. Pelegano said we might have to change from hiring a private security company to using paid local “pass checkers.” A. Connor will ask our current insurance company what kind of coverage we would need for “pass checkers.” Another idea is to install lift gates, where cars would need a card to enter. J. Greenfield pointed out that residents' concerns about security are wide-ranging and we might need to spend even more money for security. The possibility of motion detector lights was raised. 2. B. Pelegano reported that a letter was sent to residents whose boats had to be removed by the District after the November 1 deadline, in violation of our ordinances. The letter stated that the residents could contest the fine at the February BOD meeting; no one chose to attend. B. Pelegano made a motion to suspend the beach and boat privileges for those residents who have not paid their fines by the time we begin handing out the passes this season. J. Greenfield seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. A. Stec reported that snowfall has been light this season so we most likely will have a surplus. 2. There is a plan for the drainage project on Manion Road, but since it includes work on a town road, there are questions about cost-sharing with the town that have yet to be answered. 3. A. Stec stated that the more immediate question is how to handle the surplus from the light snow removal costs. The road repair review will be done in March and she'll see what is needed. 4. A. Stec said that our snow threshold for calling the contractor has been 3.9” and she thinks it should be lowered to 3”. 5. Resident Les Parlin stated that some towns use different types of materials for ice and snow removal in watershed areas.
6. Signs: T. LaMontagne was not at the meeting so there was no report. B. Pelegano has spoken to him and asked that he look into “no parking/towing” signs.
7. Communications: 1. L. Bowen reported that the new website has had a soft opening. She also reported that although we have a new website, we will be losing the volunteers that have been helping with both the website and the newsletter. She will send out an eblast looking for volunteers and asked the

other BOD members to ask around for computer savvy individuals. 2. L. Bowen asked BOD members to think about ideas for this year's newsletter and asked for articles to be submitted by April 1.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

Nothing new to discuss at this time.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

J. Greenfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m., seconded by B. Pelegano, 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.