

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Remote meeting via Zoom

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, J. Greenfield, T. Nixon, A. Fichtel, T. LaMontagne. Absent B. Ryan.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting (J. Greenfield/A. Fichtel). Motion passed unanimously.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. A. Connor received notification that the Goldilocks storage unit rent is increasing by 20%, although we have already paid through June 2021. There is the possibility of moving to a smaller unit. 2. B. Pelegano was contacted by a real estate agent with a question about the docks for a client considering purchasing property in the District. 3. The owner of a new swim raft in the southeast cove was reminded about our ordinances, and responded that the raft will be within the 40' guidelines when it is returned to the lake next summer. 4. F. Hoisl corresponded with Glenn Ostrager, who will send his caretaker out to his property on the shore of the northeast cove to clean up again, and post "no trespassing" signs. 5. Letter from Lebanon town planner notifying the District of an IWC meeting regarding a property owner that wants to add fill to their lot on Kelly's Corner at the top of Manion Rd in order to build a house. 6. Two residents responded to the email blast about boats on the trailer lot; one boat has been removed and the other will be removed by November 1. 7. F. Hoisl received several emails about the fireworks on Main beach over Labor Day weekend. The ALD is in possession of a video of the person that set them off and has filed a complaint with the Hebron police. 8. Email received about seepage from the Main dam. Carl Acimovic visited the site and said there was no immediate concern, but that the brush on the rip-rap bank needs to be cut down. 9. Notices of fines were sent to the four families regarding the Ryan Terrace ordinance violation, and ALD has received payment from three of the four. They have 30 days to make payment.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Trailer parking area/auction: L. Bowen reported that the online auction of the three unclaimed canoes on the trailer lot will run Sept 19-27. A. Fichtel asked if these were the same three boats on Main beach that have missing or expired stickers. L. Bowen said they were a different group, and that the boats on Main beach would be auctioned in the spring, along with any others that don't get removed this fall. If the boats don't sell at auction, F. Hoisl will contact the Scouts, who have inquired about boat donations in the past. Discussion ensued about past problems and use of the trailer lot in the future. Motion to discontinue the practice of storing trailers on the lot (A. Connor/A.

Fichtel). Motion passed unanimously.

2. Committee nominations: F. Hoisl nominated six residents to serve on the Lake Health committee, along with chairperson F. Hoisl: Jeff Arpin, Joyce Clark, Kathy Feldman, Kathy Garvie, Al Fichtel, and Les Parlin. B. Pelegano seconded, A. Fichtel abstained, 6 directors approved, and the motion passed. F. Hoisl nominated Maureen Dagon to serve along with chairperson T. Nixon on the Beaches and ROWs committee. B. Pelegano seconded, and all approved.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl asked the directors to go through the task list now that summer is winding down. He came across an older list of tasks that the Beaches and ROWs Committee did and will send those items to L. Bowen to add to the current task list. L. Bowen reminded everyone of the November 1 date for boats to be removed from the racks and asked which BOD member is taking charge of that task this year. Discussion ensued. Stewards will identify boats left on the racks, then send the sticker numbers to T. LaMontagne who will contact the owners by phone. Any remaining boats will be removed Sunday, November 8 and ALD will auction them off next spring.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. Thanked T. Nixon for supplying him with CT's invasive aquatic plant guide. 2. Thanked F. Hoisl for helping him at the dam with the safety valve. 3. Thanked A. Fichtel for pulling the barley straw tubes from H-11. Jeff removed them today. 4. He offered to help A. Connor with records scanning in order to reduce the volume of paper records in the storage unit. 5. AER would like to get a handle on the inflows from the Ostrager property in the northeast cove. F. Hoisl will contact the owner to get permission to walk the property and see if there are places that should be monitored.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl said that although some towns have returned to in-person meetings, others have not, and that the ALD will probably continue Zoom meetings for the next several months. Now that activities will slow down somewhat with the end of summer, he'd like the BOD to start doing some planning in order to better position ourselves for next year.

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

1. A. Connor said the Treasurer's and the Tax Collector's reports have been posted to the website, but the Treasurer's report had a minor error and will be modified and re-posted soon. There was not much activity in August and several invoices for the end of summer have yet to arrive, so she will have a lot to post for September. 2. Our tax software provider, QDS, did a software upgrade recently and sent a revised ratebook that has caused quite a few problems for the ALD treasurer and tax collector. The annual report is due to the town by September 28, so A. Connor will do the best she can with the information that has been provided. 3. A. Connor will research the people who have never paid fines for their boats being removed in past years.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported that the committee did not meet this past

month. 2. He and committee member Jeff Arpin looked at the maintenance of the dam gate. 3. The committee is looking at ways to electronically measure the lake's water depth. Because of the lack of rainfall the lake is 6" lower than usual, so they won't remove a weir board for another month or so. Removing each weir board lowers the lake 6" and takes about 4-5 weeks per board. 4. The boundary survey of Lollipop beach has been completed. It will be filed with the town of Lebanon and ALD will receive an electronic version. 5. J. Arpin will meet with L. Bowen about adding lake health information to the website for residents to access. 6. J. Arpin and committee member Joyce Clark continue to work with the Lebanon WPCA and have succeeded in getting two more houses connected to the sewers. 7. Deepwater testing continues to be done every two weeks. 6. J. Arpin will follow up on his meeting with the town about the Manion Rd. catch basin.

2. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon is still unsure if a permit is required to repair the Oakland wall, and wonders if they need approval for this \$1000 repair. F. Hoisl replied no, as long as it falls within their budget. Hebron resident J. Arpin stated that a permit is not necessary as it is a repair. 2. An arborist gave the ALD an estimate for tree work at the Berglund lot, which will need to be added to the job list. A. Connor suggested that we put a District-wide tree management plan in place. B. Pelegano suggested we add this topic to new business for the next meeting. There were no objections. 3. T. Nixon asked if there was an alternative to the trap rock that was used for the recently-completed repair at Elsmere ROW. A. Fichtel answered that trap rock is the preferred material, and that the repair was very functional. 4. The committee would like to add three boat racks. There is money in this year's budget for one. F. Hoisl stated that there must be a real reason to add a rack, as he believes the existing racks are not always full, and every time a rack is added, it takes up space on the ROW. If there is unspent money at the end of the fiscal year we can revisit the need for more racks. 5. The committee would like to turn the new boat rack at Ryan Terrace Row 90 degrees and add braces to it. They also want to clear the brush on the south side of the ROW – F. Hoisl said he would need to take a look at that. 6. T. Nixon had a meeting with a contractor for a repair at Cove ROW, and will be meeting with another contractor. 7. She asked if someone from the Lake Health Committee could attend a Beaches and ROWs meeting and J. Arpin agreed to attend. 7. She asked if there was a list of responsibilities to find out what this committee should be doing. F. Hoisl said he would talk to her about the task list and budgets.
3. Security, Boats: A. Fichtel stated that he does not recommend we use the same security company next year. He'll be starting the search for a different company immediately but it will probably mean a large increase in budget. A possibility is to go back to using residents; however, the confrontations that they would face is probably too much to ask. The ROW stewards have been putting warning stickers on boats with missing or expired tags. A. Connor asked if he needed help delivering the welcome letters. He said he already has help.
4. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano will get a signature from BASE Construction for the snow removal contract, then will have two other officers sign, and will deliver

a copy to L. Bowen for the files. 2. He has visited all the private Lebanon roads with BASE, who submitted an estimate of \$10,400 to repair four roads. He is also waiting for an estimate from a paving contractor with different approaches for paving those same four roads and will weigh the options from the two contractors. 3. A. Fichtel asked if there was a way to slow down material coming down Island Beach and Woodland Roads because the plunge pools at the head of Lollipop fill up constantly with heavy sand. B. Pelegano will meet with A. Fichtel and consider silt fence and/or some sort of repair. F. Hoisl said the plunge pool looks like it's recently been cleaned.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

1. Fireworks: Discussed earlier under Correspondence. The person who set off the fireworks is creating liability for the District and putting all ALD taxpayers at risk of a lawsuit. F. Hoisl suggested the BOD have a future discussion regarding the possibility of having police presence on holiday weekends.
2. Combining of Funds: Motion to combine the remaining \$29,186 in the Special Projects fund with the General fund and no longer have a Special Projects Fund (A. Connor/B. Pelegano). The original plan for the Special Projects fund was to begin accumulating money for dredging, which is no longer being considered. Discussion ensued. L. Bowen called the vote and the motion unanimously passed.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Add to new business: Tree maintenance plan.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (T. LaMontagne/A. Fichtel) passed unanimously at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Liz Bowen, Clerk
Amston Lake District

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