

# **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Remote meeting via Zoom

[www.amstonlake.org](http://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. Fichtel, J. Greenfield, T. LaMontagne, T. Nixon, B. Ryan.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting (B. Pelegano/A. Fichtel). B. Ryan abstained, seven directors approved, motion passed.

## **D. Presentation of Correspondence**

1. A. Connor received a letter from Day, Pitney (bond counsel for the town of Hebron) asking the ALD to confirm the tax revenue raised in the previous year and if we had any outstanding bonds with the town. 2. Letter received informing ALD that United Site Services had acquired Global Site Services (our porta-potty vendor). 3. B. Pelegano received an email from the buyer of the new construction home at 14 Wood Acres Drive in Colchester, looking for any information about the property abutting them, owned by the Amston Company. 4. He also received emails from five people in the cove area north of Lollipop, complaining that the weeds have gotten worse. 5. L. Bowen was informed by the Hebron Town Clerk that a few of the minutes from our District-wide meetings in the past year did not appear to have been approved. Since they were not Regular BOD meetings but Annual and Special meetings, we will vote on their approval at the District annual meeting in May, 2021. 6. A resident emailed L. Bowen about a diseased Ash tree at Elsmere ROW. The resident ultimately contacted the town of Hebron, who said that because of its proximity to the power lines, they would contact Eversource to inquire about removal. 7. ALD received notification from the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals about a hearing for a resident at the corner of Deepwood and Oakland seeking a variance to reduce their front and side setbacks. 8. F. Hoisl received an email from a resident whose locker on their boat was broken into at Lollipop. F. Hoisl notified the other residents with boats stored at the docks and told them to keep an eye open for other instances of vandalism/damage. Additionally, an email blast was sent.

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

1. Trailer parking area/auction: L. Bowen reported that the ramp and all the boats were sold at the online auction last month and raised \$250 for the District. A couple of trailers remain on the lot, as well as a sailboat, which the owner promised to remove by November 1.
2. Fireworks at Main beach: F. Hoisl stated that last month he submitted a formal complaint to the state police about the fireworks. He has attempted to contact officer Greenwood several times, with no response. He will try again but also suggested that over the winter the BOD needs to discuss a plan, and possibly a police presence, for

dealing with fireworks next season.

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

F. Hoisl asked everyone to remember to review the task list before each meeting. He reminded the directors about leaf raking and fall culvert cleaning for November. A. Connor would like to add shed condition/maintenance to the Beaches and ROWs tasks. It will be added to the spring tasks.

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

No residents asked to be recognized.

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

F. Hoisl encouraged everyone to read the committee meeting minutes and the reports that are put on the website each month.

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

1. A. Connor reported that we upgraded our Zoom account, contracting for a year at \$200 and adding a user. 2. Limnologist fee of \$6250 was posted, although \$1000 of it is being held back until the ALD receives their report. 3. The bill for the survey of the redesign of the plunge pool at Lollipop was paid and posted. 4. All fines for the Ryan Terrace ordinance violation have been paid. 5. A. Connor reported that ever since QDS (who processes our tax bills and maintains our software) did their system upgrade, the ALD receipts do not agree with QDS – the District has collected approximately \$20,000 more than what QDS's records show. She and the tax collector will continue to follow up with QDS. 6. F. Hoisl stated that after looking at the treasurer's report, it seems as though our expenses are where we should be with relation to the budget, but encouraged all the BOD members to take a look at the areas that they're responsible for.

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

1. Lake Health: F. Hoisl asked everyone to look at the committee minutes on the website. 1. He reported that the committee continues to work with the town on the Manion Rd catch basin. 2. Some of what the committee is discussing has to do with erosion control and would like to discuss how it ties in with Lebanon roads with B. Pelegano. 3. The town of Lebanon said that any sand from the roads that has washed into the lake may be removed without a permit, as long as no equipment is used to remove it. 4. The "2020 Plan of Conservation and Development" is on the Lebanon town website and they are accepting comments. F. Hoisl believes this might be an opportunity to get additional support from the town to address roads or storm drains. He suggested putting out an email blast asking residents to read the report and make suggestions. 5. The barley straw has been removed, the gates at the dam are working, and another weir board will be removed in early November. 6. The committee is looking into reports that some residents have put mats into the lake in front of their properties to hold the weeds down, which is an ordinance violation. 7. A. Connor asked where the ALD stands with sewer hookups. Although F. Hoisl didn't have exact numbers he said he thinks we are down to single digits and will bring the exact numbers to next month's meeting. A. Fichtel believes the

Hebron side is 100% connected.

2. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reported that they have identified some trees at Cove ROW that need to be removed. The stewards will see what else needs to be removed at the rest of the beaches and ROWs so that it can all be done in one visit. 2. Lake Health Committee member Jeff Arpin attended their most recent meeting and will help with finding different solutions for erosion control. He will also look at Lollipop and the possibility of removing the weeds with a propane torch. 3. Jeff Hatch confirmed that Ryan Terrace and Spafford ROWs are on his list for maintenance. The Spafford steward will meet him at the ROW before he does any trimming. 4. BASE Construction will repair and reinforce the boat rack at Ryan Terrace ROW and turn it 90 degrees. 5. The bench at Oakland ROW will be moved a few feet farther back from its present location. 6. There is a boat at Francis ROW obstructing access. 7. There will be a two-day fall cleanup planned for November and an email blast sent looking for volunteers. 8. Installation of silt fence at Lollipop beach for the winter will cost \$250. 9. Both A. Fichtel and T. Nixon agree that the red "Warning" stickers placed on boats with no or expired tags seem to be working and that it will be a good reminder for people next spring that they must have tags on their boats.
3. Security, Boats: 1. A. Fichtel said the budget for security might have to double next year – he'll start to contact other companies soon and will keep us updated. 2. Any boats remaining on the beaches and ROWs will be removed by the ALD on Sunday, November 8 and will be auctioned off in the spring. 3. A. Fichtel moved the boat at Francis ROW to the side of the tree it was leaning on. He stated that there was enough room to access the ROW and hadn't heard any complaints about it. Next spring we can contact the owner and ask them to keep it off to the side. 4. A. Connor said if the security budget doubles next year (an additional \$32,000), we might want to poll the community to test their interest in raising taxes to pay for this additional expense. A. Fichtel said there is always the option of volunteer security. 5. F. Hoisl will contact dockmaster Dave Arnold to schedule the removal of the docks.
4. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that the District has contracted with BASE to repair the four roads most in need of repair: Ryan Terrace, Wildwood, Manion and Cove. Work will be started very soon at a cost of \$11,000 and will need to be done every 3-4 years. 2. B. Pelegano received quotes for paving a few of the Lebanon roads: Ryan Terrace, \$21,740; Ledge, \$12,075; and Beech, \$18,375. He urged anyone living on one of the Lebanon roads to email him if they'd like to pursue investigating paving vs. the cost of repairing every few years. F. Hoisl suggested that we could possibly bring this topic up at the annual meeting. 3. Discussion ensued regarding whether costs for storm drains should come out of the Lebanon roads budget (paid by Lebanon residents only) or the Lake Health budget (paid by all residents).

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

1. Tree management program: F. Hoisl would like to budget every year for diseased trees or safety issues as a separate line item, rather than taking dollars from the Beaches and ROWs, Lebanon Roads, and Lake Health budgets. A. Connor met with an arborist

who would be willing to walk all the ALD properties and help us create a reasonable plan for trimming and monitoring that might cover the next three years or so and then continue on an ongoing basis. The ALD could use some of our surplus this year, or put a dollar amount into next year's budget for this tree management program. T. Nixon said 6-7 trees were identified by her committee members that should be cut down. F. Hoisl said he'd prefer that the arborist make recommendations to the Board in lieu of it being a ROWs committee task and believes the District should prioritize the trees that are the most unsafe for people and property. There also might be locations where we can plant new trees. A. Connor will call the company and schedule a time for the arborist to come out and walk the properties and will let the rest of the BOD know the date and time.

**L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting**

Nothing to add at this time.

**M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (B. Ryan/T. LaMontagne) passed unanimously at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Liz Bowen, Clerk  
Amston Lake District

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