

AMSTON LAKE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Regular meeting November 10, 2020, 7:00 PM

Minutes

Zoom meeting

Call to Order: 7:01 PM

1. Roll Call of members:

Attending: Jeff Arpin, Joyce Clark, Al Fichtel, Frank Hoisl, Les Parlin

Absent: Kathy Feldman, Kathy Garvie

Attending Guest: none

2. Approve August Meeting Minutes

1st Joyce Clark, 2nd Les Parlin, Minutes unanimously approved

3. Committee interface

• **Beaches and ROWs**

○ B&R meeting update

- Jeff discussed a picture taken at Cove ROW where the French drain is controlling erosion. The B&R committee noted that it could cause a tripping hazard and some note the stones were not comfortable to walk on. It was noted that this came from the previous B&R committee design. The health committee noted that the stone area was very small, the board holding the stones seems to be working well to control erosion, and that a tripping hazard was not seen. Les noted that during the recent Ryan terrace design process users of the ROW were polled by the ROW steward concerning changes being proposed before a final design was approved. Other ideas such as retention walls were discussed to limit erosion but that also has its drawbacks.
- Lollipop- weeds in some of the beach area was discussed. There are some ways to limit weed growth by chemicals that the health committee agreed should not be used. Using intense heat or pulling are two possible solutions to limit growth but it is labor intensive. The B&R committee should select areas that are of most concern and try one of those options. It was noted that vegetation actually holds the sand in place so care should be taken to minimize disturbance of weeds because it can cause unintended consequences leading to erosion.
- Jeff noted he sent B&R chair the following educational material to be shared with the committee and contractors as appropriate.
 - <https://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/shoreline-erosion-control.html>
 - shorelinestabilisationhandbook.pdf
- (Action 145, Frank) – Frank will send B&R a note to develop an action plan for future B&R modifications using BMP's (Best Management Practices) as all committees should do

• **Roads**

○ Gravel Road update

- Asphalt on the Lebanon roads is being investigated and was reported on at the last BOD meeting
 - It was suggested the roads committee look into hiring a contractor that typically maintains gravel roads to get ideas on erosion control
 - Drainage control
 - Jeff noted we needed the Lebanon Roads person to lead any erosion control on the roads, open culverts and catch basins. Frank reported it has been difficult to get committee members for the roads committee
- **Dam**
 - Inspections
 - There is some small weeping from the dam and it was noted that this is the normal design of the small pipes at the rear of the dam.
 - No inspections were expected soon but Frank will review the evacuation plan and report next meeting (Action 146, Frank)
 - Installation of lake level gage
 - Will decide where to install gage and perform in 2021
 - Lake level - Wier Board status
 - The 4-inch weir board was removed a few days ago. This should bring the lake close to the winter level. Will evaluate as the lake get to the top of the weir boards that water is currently flowing over.

4. Water Testing Program

- **Deepwater Testing**
 - Testing was completed and waiting final analysis from Phoenix labs that will be added to our tracking datasheet and our Limnologist.
- **Storm Water Testing**
 - Getting close to stopping for the year. Will wait a bit more to see if any storm hits where we get enough flow into the lake
- **Main and Lollipop Beach Testing**
 - Hebron has Chatham Health perform this test each Tuesday during the summer months. We need to obtain the results for our tracking purposes (Action 147, TBD)
 - Much discussion on if we should test Lollipop at the same time. (Action 148, Joyce) Joyce will talk with the town of Lebanon and Uncas to obtain more information to help us decide.
- **Limnologist Updates**
 - AER needs to report on the last 3 samples taken for phytoplankton. Jeff typically reminds them after he receives the results from Phoenix labs so that can be included in the report. This season AER has reported two times (about every 2-3 months) on the lake samples taken.

5. Aquatic Plant Management Plan

- **Plant Survey**
 - AER expected to report on the Plant Survey this month, Jeff will confirm
- **Algae**
 - **Barley Straw** - next year ideas based on this year's performance
 - Jeff reported the noodle floatation did not work well so we need to possibly use milk bottles in future years
 - Al reported H 11 has heavy winds which may be the reason for the netting not holding the straw as well as it did at H16
 - H16/17 still had Algae this year about 30 feet offshore. With limited rain there was very little inflow where the straw was located. Possibly next year put the barley tubes out where we saw algae
 - Consider using the 1 1/3 bales we have left in 2021 at H16/17
- **Property owner ordinance violations**

- A homeowner was contacted about installing matting in the lake without permission. They noted it was installed only temporarily and was removed. The homeowner provided Frank with the information on the matting used. (Action 149, Frank) Frank will send the matting information to the committee for future discussion.
- The Lebanon property owner that killed the vegetation on the shoreline in 2019 noted they did not do it in 2020 but it does look like they did. Need to keep a close look at vegetation control around the lake and remind property owners that they shall not kill the vegetation on the shoreline.
- **Boat Inspection reports**
 - AI noted these reports should be available to review if any inspections noted any vegetation on incoming vessels. (Action 150, AI) AI to get boat reports so they can be reviewed. Jeff will then report the findings in the lake history spreadsheet.

6. Lebanon Sanitary Sewers

- Connection Tracking Spreadsheet
 - December 2020 all permits are to be pulled and all work is to be completed by April 2021. Jeff and Joyce will continue to follow and report

7. Storm Water Control Program

- **Manion Road Catch basin design modification**
 - Meeting update with Lebanon town officials, Jeff Arpin
 - Jeff sent Lebanon officials the meeting summary he prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Seeing we made little progress we will wait until JEP comes back in November a call another meeting to finalize our plans
- **Detention Basin Design progress**
 - Lollipop owner to be contacted to see if we can implement our detention basin design on their property. Will need to talk to our Attorney and get an easement documenting such agreement (Action 151, Frank)
- **2020 Lebanon POCD Draft** (Plan of Conservation & Development)
 - Draft document comments
 - One homeowner provided a comment and Jeff provided his comments imbedded in the document. Les noted he would provide comments this week. Frank will summarize for the committees review before submitting to the town. (Action 152, Frank)
 - Why is Hebron required to have an MS4 permit, yet Lebanon is not?
 - From a definition of MS4 - Many rural developments have stormwater management structures, but only communities that the United States Census Bureau classifies as "Urbanized Areas," or UAs, based on population density, are required to become part of the MS4 program. UAs contain plenty of commercial and residential development which produces large amounts of stormwater runoff.
 - What must change for the Lebanon side of Amston Lake to be required to have an MS4 permit? (Action, TBD)

8. Watershed Management Plan

- **General Guidance for Homeowners**
 - ALH Website updates
 - Jeff working on document links to the website structure presented last few meetings.
- Amston Lake Homeowners Guide update
 - Do we continue? Discussion on it being a nice document and similar information already in the Amston laker
 - Frank will see if Kathy G has made any progress on her action 78
- E-mail Blasts
- Amston Laker

- Improving Shoreline Buffers
 - Fertilizer Use
 - Pets and Waterfowl
 - Other
 - **Historical Documentation**
 - Spreadsheet Input received for 2020
 - Jeff reported all comments implemented and he will add the most recent testing results when he receives the data from Phoenix labs and performs the necessary calculations.
- 9. Fish Reports**
- Al has kept in touch with DEEP so if and when they can find time and budget to perform another survey, they will remember Amston Lake.
- 10. Action Item Review**
- See updated action items below and mentioned in these minutes
- 11. Additional Business**
- Frank noted that some property owners are concerned about vegetation in lollipop cove. Jeff noted we can look at the past plant surveys and the state of Connecticut aerial surveys to show that not much has changed over the years. Al noted that he has also not seen changes that are leading to the lake filling with muck. AER has noted we have a very healthy lake and we need to minimize any major disturbances which many times cause more problems than they attempt to solve.

Adjournment: 10:09 PM

1st, Al Fichtel 2nd Les Parlin

Submitted by Jeff Arpin

Action item list follows, Updates in RED

Action Item No	Action Owner	Action Description	Date Assigned	Action Closure	date completed	reviewed with Committee	Print for minutes
67	Jeff Arpin, Joyce Clark	Continue to meet with Lebanon WPCA to get homes connected	6/5/2019	10/22/2020 -8 properties to be connected per Lebanon WPCA 9/24/2020 - 129 Ryan Terrace has been connected and all work approved by the Building Inspector. 8/27/20 A LWPCA letter was sent to owners of unconnected properties explaining the extended connection deadlines. Jason Nowosad signed off on an installation at 129 Ryan Terrace and two other permits have been pulled		Yes	Yes
78	Kathy Garvie	Review Candlewood lake home owners guide to see if we want to issue similar information about Amston Lake	8/30/2019	11/10/2020 - Frank to see if Kathy has made any progress on the guide 7/7/2020 - Kathy Garvie noted she would draft an Amston Lake		Yes	Yes
93	Jeff Arpin Frank Hoisl	set up a meeting with the town of Lebanon to discuss the phased approach of the Manion	12/11/2019	10/6/20 - need the Lebanon roads committee to start to lead Erosion control projects, Frank to talk to committee		Yes	Yes
124	Frank Hoisl	Action to coordinate between Jeff and Web master on how to get historical documentation available to ALHC, BOD, General public as applicable (Old action 6)	5/7/2020	10/30/2020 - Jeff coordinating files for web master, will take some time 10/6/20 - met with Liz to start with Anagnosis and reports section 1st 9/29, 9/16/2020 - working to set up meeting with Liz Bowen 8/18/2020 – ALHC agreed to final layout, Jeff Arpin to meet with		Yes	Yes
133	Kathy Feldman	Investigate other labs that can perform Chlorophyll testing	7/7/2020	10/17/2020 - Jeff and Kathy emailed about testing requirements, Kathy interfacing with some labs		Yes	Yes
138	Kathy Feldman, Joyce Clark, Jeff Arpin	Need to get GIS coordinates of the E. Coli locations so they can be added to the AER final report so they are captured for any future efforts if needed	8/18/2020	10/15/2020 - team went to collect GPS coordinates, some points failed and will need to be taken again, very windy day. 10/7//20 - Dates set for 10/14 to get locations		Yes	Yes
140	ALHC	Committee review of Lake history document	9/17/2020	11/2/2020 -Jeff issued updated spreadsheet with comments implemented 10/30/2020 - Joyce provided feedback, AER Plant report and Two Cove ROW property owner issues 10/12/20 - Les provided feedback and it was implemented in the spreadsheet 9/17/20 - Spreadsheet issued 9/17 for review and comment		Yes	Yes
141	Frank Hoisl Jeff Arpin	Safety Vests for ALHC volunteers	10/6/2020	11/10/20 - Frank saw many different vest types. Will look into a large size to fit over jackets.		Yes	Yes
142	Frank Hoisl	Rock removal from shallow waters that pose a boating or swimming safety risk	10/6/2020	10/11/20 - Frank will discuss with BOD		Yes	Yes
143	Frank Hoisl	Requirements for lake front owners controlling shoreline and lake front waters weed control	10/6/2020			Yes	Yes
145	Frank Hoisl	Frank will send B&R a note to develop an action plan for future B&R modifications using BMP's (Best Management Practices) as all committees should do	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
146	Frank Hoisl	Frank will review the Dam evacuation plan and report next meeting	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes

Action Item No	Action Owner	Action Description	Date Assigned	Action Closure	date completed	reviewed with Committee	Print for minutes
147	TBD	Hebron has Chatham Health perform this test each Tuesday during the summer months. We need to obtain the results for our tracking purposes	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
148	Joyce Clark	Joyce will talk with the town of Lebanon and Uncas to obtain more information for Lollipop beach testing in the summer months	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
149	Frank Hoisl	Frank will send the vegetation matting information to the committee for future discussion.	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
150	Al Fichtel	Al to get boat reports so we can determine what actions the inspectors are doing to keep our lake free from invasives.	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
151	Frank Hoisl	Lollipop owner to be contacted to see if we can implement our detention basin design on their property. Will need to talk to our Attorney and get an easement documenting such agreement	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
152	Frank Hoisl	Frank will summarize POCD comments for the committees review before submitting to the town.	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
153	TBD	From a definition of MS4 - Many rural developments have stormwater management structures, but only communities that the United States Census Bureau classifies as "Urbanized Areas," or UAs, based on population density, are required to become part of the MS4 program. UAs contain plenty of commercial and residential development which produces large amounts of stormwater runoff. Is Amston lake due to the dense structures fall into this definition	11/10/2020			Yes	Yes
154							