

# **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

March 17, 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, T. Nixon, B. Ryan, A. Fichtel, T. LaMontagne, J. Greenfield.

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

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2021 meeting (A. Connor/A. Fichtel). B. Pelegano abstained, and the remaining directors approved.

## **D. Presentation of Correspondence**

1. F. Hoisl and A. Fichtel received approximately 12 responses to the email blast looking for beach pass checkers. 2. Request from the residents at 190 Deepwood, Lebanon to install a MuckMat Pro in the lake in front of their property. 3. Resident with concerns about the bass population. 4. Request from a resident about not allowing smoking on District properties. 5. B. Pelegano received a call from Walter Pasay, 67 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon. He removed a tree that was planted by an abutter in the ALD property known as Mike's Place, which he uses for sporadic access to the rear of his property. Neighbor has now placed brush across the road to block his access. B. Pelegano will contact the resident to explain that although the ALD is not maintaining this road, the other resident does have the right to use it.

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

1. Pass Checkers: F. Hoisl stated that A. Fichtel has not received any interest from private companies willing provide security at the lake this summer. A few members of the BOD had a phone consultation with an employment attorney regarding the hiring of residents as “pass checkers” for the summer and whether they would be classified as independent contractors, employees, or paid volunteers. Proposing having 2-3 shifts a day, seven days a week, with the option of checking the ROWs. They would not act as security, they would just be making sure that only residents are on the beaches. Waiting for further input from our attorneys and insurance carrier to minimize risk to the District.
2. Rigazio-Digilio, 190 Deepwood, Lebanon: Request for installation of two 12x24 MuckMat Pros in the lake in front of their home from mid-April to mid-October. F. Hoisl stated that Aquatic Ecosystems Research (AER) has reviewed the use of benthic mats for the purpose of removing aquatic plant life in a small, specific area where it might inhibit a resident's access to the water. AER has indicated that you only need a 6-wk period to prevent the plant life from taking root but the request from the resident is for 6 months. The impact of the mats has been debated by the Lake Health Committee (LHC) but we have no data from Amston Lake specifically regarding their impact on the lake bottom or fish spawning areas. The LHC is putting together procedures for the possible use of the mats but does not have the capacity to manage them at this point.

Would be willing to work with residents to gather our own data. J. Greenfield asked what F. Hoisl would recommend – he responded that he recommended the installation be approved, with oversight from the Lake Health Committee but only for a period of 6 weeks. J. Greenfield moved to approve the request of the residents at 190 Deepwood to install a MuckMat for a period of no longer than 6 weeks within the months of June or July, to be monitored by the Lake Health Committee. B. Pelegano asked that we amend the motion so that the installation followed the AER recommended timeframe, which is placement at the end of May and removal no later than the beginning of July. J. Greenfield agreed to the amendment, B. Pelegano seconded, and discussion ensued. Five directors voted no, three voted yes, and the motion failed to pass.

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

1. F. Hoisl went over the task list, which is currently on the website under “District Meetings and Schedule.” He noted that the weir boards have been reinstalled for the season.

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

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. He stated that he was upset with the muck discussion. The homeowner sent a detailed letter to the BOD, which was then forwarded to the Lake Health Committee. J. Arpin provided detailed comments towards it and is not sure the BOD is aware of his comments. He stated that the committee was tasked with putting together a weed management plan for the BOD to review before it went to any kind of vote, but the plan does not address muck. He's displeased that the BOD voted on something without reviewing a plan that the LHC was tasked with creating.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. She reported that there was a nice tribute and bonfire held on Main Beach last week in honor of Jeff Hatch's passing and thanked people for coming. 2. She thinks pass checkers for the beaches should be a minimum of 18 years of age. She also would like them to check passes at the ROWs a few times a day, as they have done in the past. 3. She believes that although the lake pass distribution is laborious, it's a series of events that build community, so she encourages the BOD to hold it as a high priority for the future. 4. She would like a copy of the welcome letter that we are sending to new residents.

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

1. F. Hoisl stated that the Governor's Executive Order 9H allows for the annual meeting to be virtual again this year. While the order is only valid through April 30, he expects it will be extended. Unlike last year when the BOD alone approved the budget, the entire District will vote for the budget, as well as the directors and officers, so all of that voting will have to be done virtually.

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

1. A. Connor reported that we had very little financial activity in the month of February and pointed out that the treasurer's and tax collector's numbers are slightly off due to a timing issue. 2. Eight accounts (which account for 25% of our delinquencies) have been turned over to the attorney. 3. A Connor stated that although the online tax payment system will cost \$1200 next year, she recommends continuing it, both as a

service to our taxpayers, and because realtors and attorneys can use it prior to property transfers, which makes the tax collector's job more efficient. 4. A. Connor has not received preliminary budgets from all directors and there are quite a few questions about costs for next year's budget. F. Hoisl reminded the directors to get their budget estimates to the treasurer by next week.

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

1. Finance: A. Connor had nothing further to report.
2. Lake Health: F. Hoisl reported that the committee meeting minutes and action items are on the website but highlighted a few items. 1. The committee is concerned about the amount of sand that Lebanon used, and salt that Hebron used, on the roads this year. 2. They are still looking for a local resident to be the point of contact for the dam evacuation plan. 3. On March 15, the lake was 8" below the high water mark, and the weir boards were re-installed. 4. The committee continues to look for stormwater testing volunteers. 5. The aquatic plant survey and lake health reports from AER are on the website. The committee hopes to host a meeting with AER at the lake to answer residents' questions.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reported that the committee has gotten 65 signatures for a proposal to add a ban on smoking on District property to ordinance 2008.11 and wondered if it could be voted on at the annual meeting. 2. She asked what the process is for fixing the wall at Francis ROW. A. Fichtel will contact the abutting homeowners to see if they know where their property line is. 3. The committee is requesting handicapped porta-potties and new fences – A. Fichtel will check on pricing. 4. T. Nixon hopes to have the boat racks stained soon. A. Fichtel requested that the District consider using pressure-treated wood for any future racks to cut down on maintenance. 5. The spring cleanup is tentatively scheduled for April 22. 6. A. Connor and F. Hoisl asked that the committee consider how the entrances to the beaches could be configured to accommodate people coming through to have their passes checked.
4. Security, Boats: 1. A. Connor asked if we were still having a person open and close the beach gates this summer. A. Fichtel will contact resident C. Wool to see if he will continue in that capacity this year.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that the potholes will be repaired when we are certain the snow is over for the season. 2. He is waiting on a price for culvert cleaning. 3. Four of the Lebanon roads were repaired last year and he will put the cost of repairing the next four roads in next year's budget.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen reported that she is in the process of updating the website with some 2021 information, including the AER reports, lake pass information, and the dock lottery. 2. She's also hired someone to help her with the more challenging aspects of the website and will be able to start posting more lake health information. 3. She's only received one article for the newsletter so far.

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

There was no new business to discuss.

**L. Executive Session:** Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the tree management contracts (A. Connor/B. Pelegano) passed unanimously.

Executive session ended at 9:46. Motion to recommend initiating work with CT Landscaping and Tree, LLC to do work on trees in the District, using \$2500 from the Beaches and ROWs Repairs & Maintenance line item and \$2200 from the Miscellaneous Lake Expenses line item, subject to the contractor's availability and the BOD's review of the work proposed (J. Greenfield/A. Connor). Motion unanimously approved. The \$4700 would be spent with the intention of including the remainder of the approximately \$15,000 proposal in the budget or a vote at the annual meeting for whatever additional funds we think are necessary to complete the job. Discussion continued about how to pay for the remainder of the work that was recommended by the arborist.

**M. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting**

Nothing to add at this time.

**N. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (A. Fitchtel/A. Connor) passed unanimously at 9:56 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.