

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Remote meeting via Zoom

www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, T. Nixon, A. Fichtel, T. LaMontagne, J. Greenfield. Absent: B. Ryan.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2021 meeting (J. Greenfield/A. Fichtel). Motion unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. B. Pelegano reported that a petition was received from a group of residents asking to prohibit smoking on ALD properties. It will be added to the the annual meeting agenda. 2. A resident emailed about fencing her waterfront at 243 Deepwood Dr, Hebron. There were no objections. 3. A Resident asked about beach signage showing conflicting dates that dogs are prohibited. T. LaMontagne said that the new red signs are correct, and he is looking into modifying the old white signs to read April 1. 4. A. Fichtel received emails from a few of our boat inspectors questioning why passes weren't being given out yet to new residents. T. LaMontagne responded that he would begin sending them out. 5. A. Fichtel spoke with a resident holding children's football practices on the Berglund property – the topic will be discussed later under New Business. 6. A. Connor received a letter from the Superior Court setting the date for the Zimmerman lawsuit. 7. A. Connor received the binder for the new Worker's Compensation insurance policy. 8. F. Hoisl received a request from a resident asking for permission to hold a wedding on Lollipop beach on September 18. There were no objections. 9. Resident Jim Delisle responded to F. Hoisl's request and agreed to be the ALD contact for the Dam Emergency Plan. 10. F. Hoisl received emails from a few residents asking if there were rules regarding golf carts in the District. He replied that they have to follow the town rules and also must have hang tags if they are parked on ALD property.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Pass Checkers: F. Hoisl stated that a lot of work has been done behind the scenes and that he will contact-the interested volunteers.

2. Tree Project: J. Greenfield reported that a contractor was hired last month. The ash tree at Elsmere ROW will be the biggest and most expensive removal. Several BOD members were in touch with the town and Eversource, in an effort to have Eversource take responsibility for removing the tree. The abutting neighbor, D. Amende, met with the arborist that Eversource contracts with, who said that the tree would not be their responsibility as it was not endangering the main. J. Greenfield recommends that if this is not the first tree taken down, then it should be in the budget

for early next fiscal year. He suggests that we go ahead with removal of the trees at Cove ROW and Lollipop beach, and also the small ash tree at Main beach. We will send an eblast to the residents so that people know when the work will be done.

F. Task List and Action Items

1. F. Hoisl reminded us that the annual meeting is May 22, and we need to start ordering and posting signs; setting the agenda and advertising in the newspaper; and finalizing the budget. 2. The dock lottery will be held next week. 3. A. Fichtel said the two porta-potties have been delivered (at a cost of \$125 each/month) and wondered why the task list says to have them installed as early as April 1.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. She is concerned about the Berglund property being used for children's sports practices without permission and that allowing it would set a dangerous precedent in terms of liability to the District. 2. She'd like to make sure that the BOD is doing whatever they can to distribute boat stickers promptly to new residents, as the racks are almost full and she's noticed many boats without stickers.

H. Receive President's Report

1. F. Hoisl said that we were unable to contract with a security company to monitor beach access this year. The BOD concluded that the people who have the best interests of the lake at heart are ALD residents, so we will be assigning paid volunteer residents this year as "pass checkers" to monitor access. Beach goers must show their pass to the checker to get on the beaches. Once on the beach, President Hoisl is asking residents to behave in a responsible manner and follow the rules of the District. He asks that all residents please bring their beach pass each and every time as there will be no exceptions. More information will be coming soon to residents via the website and eblasts.

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

1. A. Connor has not yet received the Tax Collector's report but will contact E. Curtin and have it posted to the website. 2. A. Connor reported that she continues to gather data for projecting the last quarter and believes we will stay within our budget for this fiscal year. 3. She sent a proposed budget out to the other directors and asked them to consider how much of a tax increase to pass on to the residents. The Lebanon Roads fund is in good shape, as we had a mild winter. The General fund yearly budget is growing – costs are increasing, and we're taking on projects. The draft budget shows a potential increase in the mill rate of 23% over last year, which is still low. The budget has been kept flat for the last two years. She is proposing we apply remaining special projects funds to pay for the tree plan. She suggests we use surplus generated this fiscal year against next year's budget with any additional funds needed to be generated through tax increases. That way we maintain previous years' surplus in reserve. It would be prudent to use some, but not all, of the surplus, in an effort to flatten out some of the tax increases. 4. The proposed budget will be sent to the directors for their review and comment on May 14, and then posted to the website for the residents on Monday, May 17. 5. As a result of discussions with our legal counsel and insurance agent, we have revised the waiver forms for our contractors and

volunteers (paid and unpaid) to sign.

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

1. Lake Health: F. Hoisl reminded everyone that the committee's minutes are on the website. 1. On Monday, he and J. Arpin will be meeting again with engineer Joe Polulech and surveyor Charlie Dutch at Manion Rd to finalize the plan creating a catch basin at one of the worst areas in terms of what goes into the lake. The plan will be submitted to the town, the committee will get estimates for the proposed work, and it will be brought before the BOD. 2. Another resident expressed interest in volunteering to be a water sampler. 3. Eight tubes of barley straw were installed in the lake at H-11 and H-16. 4. Chatham Health District will no longer be doing water tests at the lake – they are no longer doing private lakes at all. Uncas Health (for the Lebanon side) has never done it.
2. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reported that 21 of the 24 boat racks have been stained. 2. The Lollipop plunge pool has been cleaned out and the contractor will give estimates for doing the rest of the plunge pools around the lake. 3. T. Nixon is trying to setup a schedule and lock in the contractors for a few years. She met with another new contractor and is putting together a list of other projects for him. 4. The committee will have their next meeting outside at Lollipop beach so that they can talk about what can possibly be done at that beach. 5. Spring cleanup will be either the first or second weekend in May.
3. Security, Boats: 1. A. Fichtel reported that he is still having trouble getting in touch with the owners of some boats that were left on the racks last year. At some point the remaining boats will be put up for auction. 2. F. Hoisl stated that there was a possible benthic mat in the lake in front of a property that had changed hands in the last few years. He sent a letter recently to the current owners, asking if they knew anything about it.
4. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that pothole repairs have been completed for the year.
5. Communications: 1. L. Bowen reported that she contacted Google asking them to remove the Cove ROW boat launch pin from Google Maps, as it is not open to the public. It was approved and the pin is gone. She will work on having them delete the pins for Main and Lollipop beaches for the same reason. 2. There are several email blasts in the queue: for the annual meeting and how to participate, the budget; spring updates, etc. 3. She has received several articles for the newsletter but could use a few more. 4. As discussed earlier, there is confusion over the ordinance that states that dogs are prohibited from any ALD property from April 1 to September 30. The old signs at the beaches and the cartoons in the handbook say May 1. Several residents offered to turn the pdf of the handbook into a Word document so that it can be edited to fix this confusion, and also in anticipation of the possible ordinance change at the annual meeting. J. Arpin has completed a first draft.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

1. Berglund Property: F. Hoisl reported that a resident is holding flag football practices for a small group of kids from the Hebron elementary schools (and not necessarily ALD residents) twice a week. The parents park in the Main beach parking lot. Discussion ensued among the board members. It was agreed that there are town-owned parks where this activity could take place without putting any liability on the District. F. Hoisl will notify the resident/coach to ask them to hold their practices elsewhere.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (J. Greenfield/B. Pelegano) passed unanimously at 8:54 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.