

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021 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, T. Nixon, T. LaMontagne.

Absent: A. Fichtel, J. Greenfield, B. Ryan.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting (B. Pelegano/T. LaMontagne). Motion unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. A. Connor received a letter regarding insurance renewal from our former insurance company. She will contact our new broker to clear this up. 2. A. Connor received an update from the Superior Court regarding the 5/25 hearing date for the Zimmerman lawsuit.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Pass Checkers: F. Hoisl reported that he and A. Fichtel met with the nine pass checkers and outlined what they will be doing this summer, which is to verify who should be on the beaches. Not every hour of every day is covered, but it will be seven days a week. He asked residents to please bring their passes to show the checkers each time they visit a beach or ROW and to behave accordingly. A. Fichtel will be checking boats and cars, and placing red warning stickers on those that don't have current ALD stickers or hang tags.

2. Tree Project: J. Greenfield was not at the meeting but F. Hoisl reported that the town of Hebron has accepted responsibility to remove the diseased ash tree at Elsmere ROW, which would have represented a large cost to the District. Tree removal has begun at other identified ALD locations.

F. Task List and Action Items

1. F. Hoisl requested that the BOD look at the task list each month and he reviewed the next few months of tasks to be completed.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Erin Sheridan, 11 Lake Road, Hebron. She wonders what will be done about former residents who are using the beaches. They are still in possession of their valid black passes. F. Hoisl responded that we will have a way to cross check the pass numbers with a current list of property owners.

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. He is the president of the Amston Lake

Association (ALA) and said that they will be in full swing this summer and will resume in-person meetings at the clubhouse in June. ALA has received a great response to their mailed membership solicitation. They have lots of events planned for the summer, all of which can be found on their website, including the Summer Season Kickoff on June 12. He offered to partner with ALD on that date to set up a table and hand out newsletters.

H. Receive President's Report

1. F. Hoisl stated that there has been a lot of behind-the-scenes work getting ready for the annual meeting. He said that at some point we'll need to figure out when is the right time to resume in-person meetings.

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

1. A. Connor reported that the April financial report shows that we are \$66,471 ahead of the budget as of April 30, with only two months to go in the fiscal year. The two largest underspent categories are lake health (water testing and plunge pools) and possibly repairs. We have also underspent on the Lebanon roads this year. She suggested that the committees consider reporting their actual/budget numbers quarterly to the BOD. The monthly reports are useful if the committee chairs would use them to track their budgets. 2. The proposed budget for FY 2021-22 has been posted to the website. A. Connor calculated the mill rates based on the proposed budget (which uses a portion of the surplus again in order to have a minimal tax increase). Hebron's mill rate will be going from 1.37 to 1.63, and Lebanon's will increase from 2.6 to 2.94. We will also be increasing our total spending, which means that our Emergency Fund will go up, as it must be 50% of the operating budget, per the bylaws. 3. She suggested that in future years, the May meeting be scheduled the second, rather than the third, week in May in order to have more time to make any adjustments in the budget between the regular board meeting and the annual meeting. 4. She's collecting insurance waivers for all the volunteers and contractors. 5. ALD received 10 rental agreements for the dock rentals. 6. ALD received a \$214 refund from the Hartford Fire Insurance Company due to the state overestimating the Worker's Comp policy premium. 7. State Worker's Comp notice has been posted to the bulletin boards at the beaches. 8. Mobile shredding company is coming Friday morning to shred the last of the old ALD records that the state has approved for us to destroy. 9. The Tax Collector's report is on the website. Attorney Cohen is working to collect on nine very delinquent accounts.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reminded everyone to look at the monthly committee report on the website. 2. He stated that since Chatham Health District is no longer doing water testing at Main beach, and Uncas Health has never done it for the Lollipop beach, the committee would like the District to take over this task. We would need a volunteer to test each beach once a month and send the samples off to the lab that ALD uses for our other tests. The cost for these tests is about \$35 per test, per beach. 3. Eight barley straw tubes have been installed in the lake – they were left over from last season, so there was no cost to the District this year. They are using tubes now, instead of bales. 4. The town of Lebanon's WPCA reported that the eight homes still not connected to the sewers

were given extra time due to COVID, but the owners should be moving forward by the summer. 5. B. Pelegano asked if consideration had been given to add a catch basin to a certain parcel of vacant land in the cove northeast of Lollipop. F. Hoisl responded that the Manion Rd. project was the number one priority, as it has the most inadequate storm drain. However, due to the protracted nature of working with the town, they will take another look at possibly doing something in that cove, since the landowner has already given their permission to install one on his property.

2. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon stated that one of the members is going to put together a plan for Lollipop beach. 2. She received a request for a handicapped-accessible porta-potty from a resident that uses a walker. 3. Lollipop and Spafford plunge pools have recently been cleaned, with Oakland and Cove ROWs scheduled for Friday, May 21. 4. A new contractor has been hired for small projects around the lake. 5. The committee would like permission to rake the sand out of the lake and onto the beach at Ryan Terrace ROW. F. Hoisl will take a look at the area before a decision is made. 6. T. Nixon said that the silt fence at Lollipop beach would be removed soon. 7. L. Bowen said that there is a stump at Lollipop from a recently cut tree that could pose a trip hazard and said that if it wasn't going to be ground down, perhaps we could spray the top with white paint to make it more visible. 8. L. Bowen said that the newest rack at Ryan Terrace ROW was supposed to be rotated over the winter, but never was. T. Nixon said she would add both items to her list of tasks.
3. Security, Boats: 1. A. Fichtel was not at the meeting so there was no report.
4. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that all the work on the roads has been completed for the year. With the low snowfall this past winter, the surplus in the roads fund increased to an unnecessarily high level so it was suggested that we use \$15,000 more of the surplus than was originally proposed for the 2021-22 budget, thereby decreasing the tax burden on Lebanon residents. A. Connor will revise the budget and L. Bowen will post the revision to the website.
5. Communications: 1. L. Bowen stated that after successfully getting Google to remove the pin on Google Maps for the Cove boat launch, she contacted them again and they have removed the pins for both Main and Lollipop beaches. 2. So far there's been a low response rate for attending the annual meeting. 3. The newsletter will not be ready in time for distribution at the ALA Summer Season Kickoff on June 12 – but hopefully will be done soon after.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

1. F. Hoisl reiterated that he would like to find a person to do water testing at Main and Lollipop. L. Bowen suggested looking for volunteers via an email blast. Resident J. Matra offered to take on this task and will meet with F. Hoisl for the particulars.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (B. Pelegano/A. Connor) passed unanimously at 8:41 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.