

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

September 22, 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, A. Fichtel, K. Patterson, J. Greenfield, T. LaMontagne, T. Nixon.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2021 meeting (A. Connor/K. Patterson). T. LaMontagne and J. Greenfield abstained, six directors approved, motion passed.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

F. Hoisl: 1. Email from resident unhappy with vegetation trimming that took place at Oakland ROW. 2. Email from resident Katherine Hinman, saying she was pleased with her experiences with the the boat pass checkers. 3. Resident at 430 Deepwood in Lebanon says the lily pads in front of their home are obstructing their use of the lake. 4. Residents at 355 and 365 Deepwood in Lebanon have identified several ash trees that are dead or dying on the property between them that is owned by ALD. 5. Dockmaster Dave Arnold recommends moving the mooring for the Lollipop docks 25' closer to shore for the winter to avoid the rocks in that area. 6. ALD attorney Adam Cohen sent a notice inviting interested parties to a seminar on "Cannabis in your District," in response to the legalization of marijuana in CT.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Duck Pond dam: F. Hoisl stated that there are two issues in this area. One is that the duck pond seems to be filling in with weeds, and will the area become less effective over time. Aquatic Ecosystems Research (AER) has identified the weeds as common Joe Pye Weed. The second issue is whether the structure surrounding the dam needs repair or replacement. A. Fichtel stated that the dam was originally put in place to create a pond to raise ducks, hence the name. A. Connor asked if there would be any advantage to removing the structure before it collapses onto the dam. F. Hoisl will contact a few dam experts that engineer Carl Acimovic had recommended.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl went over a few of the upcoming items to prepare for the end of the year and asked everyone to review their sections, especially those having to do with beaches and ROWs. L. Bowen asked each director to review the list to make sure it's complete for the next group of board members.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. The Lake Health Committee has uploaded a lot of information to their page on the website and he would like an email blast sent out to inform the residents that this data is available. 2. He suggested forming a committee to better organize the ALD website. 3. He has a large quantity of scanned files that are important to the board and/or the Lake Health Committee and would like to put them in an archive area on the Google Drive part of the ALD website. L. Bowen will add an archive area to the Drive. 4. He reminded the board that the dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) notes that an exercise is required to be performed by October, 2021.

Todd Angelucci, 260 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon. This being his second season at the lake, he believes that the weeds in the cove near his house have gotten worse and wonders if there are any plans to help with that. He also stated that he sees a lot of pickerel in that area and wonders if they're crowding out the bass. F. Hoisl responded that the District is no longer doing mechanical dredging and that the Lake Health Committee is continuing to discuss the issue of weeds in the coves. He encouraged T. Angelucci to attend the next Lake Health Committee meeting.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. She stated that she sees an extreme amount of long grasses at the edge of the lake on the beaches and ROWs this year and has also seen a plant resembling invasive trefoil (sic). A. Fichtel responded that according to the latest plant survey from AER the percentage of tapegrass has exploded this season, in part due to the weather – at times, the lake level has been a foot higher than normal. He wondered if M. Dagon was referring to the invasive species milfoil, which he stated has not been seen at the lake, but will look at the sample that she has. 2. M. Dagon wants clarification about the policy for allowing boats without stickers on the lake. She said the article in this year's newsletter stated that boats could enter the lake after being cleaned and dried and she was fearful of allowing boats on the lake without tags. A. Fichtel responded that it is a property owner's responsibility to make sure their guests or renters have some kind of pass identifying them, but it is really difficult to control at the beaches and ROWs. 3. M. Dagon stated that dogs on the beaches and ROWs continue to be a problem and wonders what can be done.

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. He was with M. Dagon at Main beach when a non-resident and his two children were about to launch their canoe, saying they were guests of a resident. The person did not give the resident's name or address, so they were asked to leave, but both J. Matra and M. Dagon are looking for clarification of the policy for allowing boats on the lake.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl gave a shout-out to the nine beach pass checkers (Anthony DeCiantis, Jules Meyers, Kate Shaw-Mumford, Leah Balser, Phil Tharpe, Robin Cohen, Toni-Lynn Bennett, Trinity Duran, and Will Freitas) in the inaugural year of this program, saying he got a lot of positive feedback from the residents. In the months that we had the pass checkers, more than 70% of the total shifts were covered, with rain days being the cause for most of the uncovered shifts. The District saved a significant amount of money by not hiring a commercial security firm, and the money we did spend went into the hands of our local residents.

J. Greenfield had to leave the meeting early so at this point he gave a summary of the tree management program. He stated that all the scheduled work had been completed, with the exception of Oakland ROW, which will be done after the season, when the boats have been removed from the racks. We've had a couple of inquiries from residents who live next to ALD-owned properties in Lebanon – one on Cove Rd, and one on Deepwood Dr. The property owners at 355 and 365 Deepwood in Lebanon are requesting removal of some ash trees from the ALD property in between them, as well as having a stump removed. J. Greenfield will have the arborist take a look, but the intention for tree removal this year was to include only high-traffic areas.

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

1. A. Connor stated that her report has been posted to the website and has already filed our annual reports with the town. 2. At year-end, we were budgeted to lose \$50,000, but only lost \$3,000, so we are budgeted to use that money this year. ALD has already collected \$115,400 of our budgeted \$169,700 in taxes. 3. On the August balance sheet, there was an adjustment to increase the Emergency Fund balance by \$12,500, so that it would equal 50% of our 2021-22 operating budget. 4. The Tax Collector's August report needs further clarification and will be revised and posted to the website.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported that the committee met on September 9. 2. He will bring the benthic mat request form that was discussed at the last board meeting to the Lake Health Committee to discuss. 3. The team is continuing deepwater, stormwater runoff and beach bacteria testing, probably until October. 3. The last of the barley straw has been removed from the lake, and as its effectiveness has been questionable, it will not be used going forward, which will also save the District the expense. 4. He thanked the committee for their hard work in putting together the Amston Lake Procedures and Planning guide and urged everyone to look for it on the Lake Health portion of the website. 5. A. Fichtel commented that the lake currently is very murky, with the Secchi depth showing only 2.5m of visibility. Since it's been a few weeks since Hurricane Ida, he speculated that the murkiness might be some sort of brown algae bloom and the committee is looking into it.
2. Beaches and ROWs: T. Nixon said their last meeting was September 8 at Francis ROW and gave a recap of the complete minutes that have been posted to a the website. Silt fence will be added to the following areas for the winter: Lollipop Beach, and Oakland and Ryan Terrace ROWs. 1. Francis ROW: the retaining wall at the property next to this ROW has fallen into the lake. F. Hoisl will send the owners a letter to check on the status of the repair. 2. Oakland ROW: a resident whose property abuts this ROW believes the contractor trimmed the vegetation on his property. F. Hoisl asked if this ROW should be surveyed. Discussion ensued. L. Bowen reminded the board that several years ago a contractor clear-cut an area at Ryan Terrace ROW along the property line that abuts the Bowens', without knowledge of where the property lines were. She and her husband went to the board and it was agreed that whenever work is done along an ALD property line, the abutting property owners should be notified beforehand and asked if they have

evidence of the property lines. T. Nixon reported there are a lot of boats scattered over Oakland ROW, not on the racks, with several full of water. 3. Cove ROW: lots of boats lying on the ground at this ROW too, indicating the need for another rack. 4. Lollipop Beach: the bushes should be trimmed after they flower next year, and possibly twice per year. The porta-potty needs a new fence, the plunge pool needs cleaning again, and the sand at the beach will be graded in the spring. 5. Ryan Terrace ROW: There are old signs that need to be removed. 6. Spafford ROW: Stones were added at the top of the ROW, a process that is repeated every year. A. Fichtel said that the result of removing the chain at Spafford is that cars have created deep gullies at the top of the ROW. T. Nixon will look into placing more boulders there so cars cannot access.

3. Security, Boats: 1. A. Fichtel said there are a number of boats without stickers being stored at the beaches and ROWs and they will be removed from the racks soon. 2. He stated that the warning stickers placed on cars without tags seemed to have their desired effect. 3. The owner of the swim raft that's been on the shore at Lollipop beach for a few months has been identified and will be returning the raft to their own shoreline. 4. There are four boats that will be put out for the online auction this year. 5. The drill run by the Hebron Fire Department and the Tolland Dive team on September 20 at Main beach was a success, with approximately 40-50 participants and a dozen emergency vehicles from multiple towns. It was an interesting exercise to watch and they are welcome to come back for drills every year.
4. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano stated that he was contacted by a resident on Ryan Terrace about a tree that fell across Mike's Way, but a few years ago the board decided that the ALD would not be maintaining this "road." The tree has since been removed, presumably by the resident. 2. B. Pelegano received five responses to the email blast asking for residents interested in joining the Lebanon Roads Committee, and held a short meeting on September 5. Their focus currently is the amount of money spent every year on the roads, and where all the processed stone that's being used is ending up. Last year approximately \$10,000+ was spent to repair four roads, and two of the four are in very bad shape again already. He stated that our options for the roads are milling, paving and processed stone, with milling starting to look like a much better option. He'd like to repair the roads and mill at least one road as a test to see how it makes it through the winter. They are awaiting a quote from another contractor.
5. Communications: 1: L. Bowen added Google Analytics to the ALD website with the hopes of finding out how people are using the website, but she hasn't quite figured out how to interpret the data and will ask the web person for assistance.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

1. Lake Manager: K. Patterson needs time to do more research on how the person would be used and how they would be paid. Discussion ensued with suggestions from the board about places to contact to further her research.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (B. Pelegano/ A. Fichtel) passed unanimously at 9:28 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.