

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022 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, A. Fichtel, J. Greenfield, T. LaMontagne, K. Patterson. Absent: T. Nixon.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2022 meeting (J. Greenfield/A. Fichtel), six directors approved, one abstained, motion passed.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

F. Hoisl: 1. He was contacted by a resident who was bit by a dog at the Lollipop parking lot on 2/28. The resident asked that additional signs be installed urging caution with dogs on the beach. 2. He received an email from a resident alerting the board to an article in the 3/11 Rivereast News Bulletin regarding a bill to bring more water up Route 85 as well as to Hebron Center by drawing water from the "Amston Lake area." A few members of the board are in the process of gathering more information from the town, CT Water, and State Senator Osten about the matter. 3. He received emails from a few members of the Lake Health Committee about what appears to be excessive amounts of road salt that both towns are using on the roads. The Lake Health Committee is following up with both towns.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Tree Management: J. Greenfield reported that the work at Oakland ROW had been completed, which was the last piece of work that ALD contracted for. 2. The decision as to whether or not to remove two ash trees on the land between 355 and 365 Deepwood Drive in Lebanon is still under discussion – it is unclear if both trees are on ALD property. F. Hoisl is going to follow up with the owners of the adjoining properties. 3. J. Greenfield suggested that tree management may not need to be a line item in the budget for next year. We've addressed the trees that were a significant risk.
2. Lake/District Manager: Discussion ensued about the lake/District manager position, and whether or not board members thought it was a necessary expense. F. Hoisl has heard from residents over the years that they would like to have a lake manager, but he doesn't believe there is a consensus by the residents or the board. B. Pelegano doesn't know if the position is necessary, and isn't sure that we should be paying a manager more than twice what we are paying the ALD clerk, treasurer or tax collector, who work more hours than what we are proposing for this position. K. Patterson said that the Beaches and ROWs Committee felt it was important to have some type of security at the ROWs. F. Hoisl would like to gauge the residents' interest at the annual meeting by presenting the research that K. Patterson did so that they could ask questions and voice their opinions, and

find out if it would be worth pursuing for the 2023-24 fiscal year. He feels that having someone roving the ROWs is unworkable and thinks the residents who use the ROWs should be mindful of the rules and respectful of their neighbors.

3. Benthic Mat Request: Motion to approve a request from the owners of 430 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon to install benthic mats in their lakefront property (A. Connor/ T. LaMontagne). J. Greenfield moved to amend the motion: to approve installation of benthic mats (total of 20X40) at 430 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon for no more than six weeks between April 1 and May 31, 2022. B. Pelegano seconded. Vote to approve amending the motion: 6 directors approved, one opposed. Discussion ensued. K. Patterson suggested that we ask the owners to have the installing company send the ALD an email to prove when it was installed/removed. Vote to approve the amended motion: 6 directors approved, one opposed.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl said that we will be addressing all the items on the task list as we go through the meeting.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. Stated that he was interested in hearing how the response has been to the online pass registration. There will be a representative from ALA at the clubhouse for the first pass distribution on March 26 and wondered when the next distribution dates will be scheduled.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. She says the need for security at the ROWs is important and feels that if we're not going to have a lake manager, that security should be increased at the ROWs, perhaps with roving security, as we've had in the past. She said things can get contentious when residents ask other residents to follow the rules and thinks that fines need to be issued for not following the ordinances.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl said we are currently planning on having an in-person annual meeting at the Douglas Library in Hebron on May 21. We will have four open seats on the board: both T. LaMontagne and Treasurer A. Connor are not seeking re-election, while K. Patterson and President F. Hoisl are seeking re-election.

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

1. A. Connor reported that the ALD is ahead of budget so we haven't needed to use any surplus yet, although we still have 3+ months to go in the fiscal year. We are not too underspent on the General Fund but we are on the Lebanon roads, having only spent \$19,500 out of the \$40K budget. 2. She sent out a first draft of the budget but is still missing some information from a few directors. With the information she's been given so far, it appears that the Hebron residents would see an 11% increase in taxes while the Lebanon residents would have a 13% increase. She is proposing to keep our level of support to ALA flat at \$8K. This budget does not propose using any surplus, but if it remains unspent in the current year, it can be applied to next year instead of raising taxes. The ALD current year budget is \$169,700 in tax revenue and the draft budget proposes that we will need about \$190K. We will know in a few months whether

we will have surplus that we can use to avoid having a tax increase. 3. She added a \$2500 line item in the new budget to hire an accounting firm because there will be a turnover in the treasurer position. 4. The Tax Collector's report will be posted to the website tomorrow.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reminded everyone that the committee minutes are posted on the website. 2. Water testing has been completed, and they are still waiting for Aquatic Ecosystem Research (AER)'s year-end report. 3. A. Fichtel contacted the town of Hebron about the excessive road salt and they promptly came out with street sweepers. Lebanon Town Planner P. Chester indicated that they have to use one or the other – salt or sand – as it's a safety issue and that the town is eventually going to use all salt. F. Hoisl suggested that perhaps there's a way to calibrate the trucks better when they're spreading. 4. AER is coming to the next committee meeting to answer how we can make better use of all the data that is being collected and what the data is telling us. 5. A. Fichtel is very concerned about Hebron's plan to tap into the aquifer that feeds Amston Lake and has already spoken to CT Water. F. Hoisl suggested we might need to form a special committee to keep on top of this issue.
2. Dams: 1. F. Hoisl said the emergency action plan (EAP) was revised last April and a copy was sent to resident J. Delisle, who has agreed to be the ALD on-site contact for DEEP. F. Hoisl has been doing visual inspections at the dam and keeping monthly records. There will be another callout exercise in April, 2023. The dam is in good shape, but the berm will be reinforced next year.
3. Beaches and ROWs: T. Nixon was not at the meeting so there was no report but the latest committee meeting minutes are on the website. The committee is planning on doing a spring cleanup April 23-24, with a rain date of April 30.
4. Security, Boats: S. Fichtel reported that about 135 people have registered online for their passes so far. He was surprised to find that approximately 25% of ALD residents owe back taxes, which is due in part to people forgetting to pay the January installment. Residents will need to be current on taxes in order to pick up their passes. The first pickup date for the online registrants will be March 26 from 10 a.m. – noon. L. Bowen will send out another email blast letting people know that any registrations that come in after Wednesday, March 23 will be processed for the next pickup date, which will be announced soon.
5. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano says \$11,800 has been spent to date for snow removal. He says we are spending close to \$15K to repair the roads each year and would like to pursue milling the roads to make them safer, more drivable and to avoid having the processed stone wash into the lake. He is asking to keep the budget the same as this year, using any surplus from this year to mill one or two roads this summer.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen will be sending another email blast with the focus on looking for a new ALD treasurer to join the board. 2. She has not received any

articles for the newsletter yet. F. Hoisl will send around a list of topics to the board members to spur some ideas.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business to discuss.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (A. Connor/L. Bowen) passed unanimously at 9:05 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.