

# AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022 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 7:03 p.m.

## B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, A. Connor, L. Bowen, T. Nixon, K. Patterson, T. LaMontagne.

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

## C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2022 meeting (T. Nixon/T. LaMontagne) passed without objection.

## D. Presentation of Correspondence

**A. Connor:** 1. Request for donation from Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) – will be discussed later in the meeting during treasurer’s report. 2. Legal notice regarding a variance for a shed installation at 203 Deepwood, Hebron, which abuts ALD property. **F. Hoisl:** 1. Resident request to allow storage of trailers again at the ALD-owned property on W. Island Beach Rd. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that trailer-only storage will be offered this year to the residents who have rented boat slips. F. Hoisl will discuss logistics with the resident who offered to manage the area. A. Connor confirmed that the property was donated to the District in 2001.

## E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. L. Bowen asked whether a determination had been made about whether the property at 71 Bush Rock Rd., Colchester has lake rights. The property is now under contract. F. Hoisl said he would talk to her after the meeting about how to proceed with ALD attorney A. Cohen. 2. F. Hoisl said there is another parcel with pieces of the property in Hebron, Lebanon, and Colchester. Their ALD tax assessment amount is now in question because the parcel is only being taxed in Colchester – both Hebron and Lebanon are no longer taxing their small portions of the property. F. Hoisl will continue to discuss with attorney Cohen to arrive at an equitable ALD assessment.

## F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl highlighted a couple of the more important items on the list, including updating the website with the results of the annual meeting, and sending out the July tax bills.

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

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. She congratulated and thanked the newly elected and re-elected board members. 2. She implored the board to do something about dogs on the ROWs. She suggests that we have roving checkers stop at the ROWs to let people know that their dogs don't belong there and that smoking is not permitted. 3. She stated that she had resigned from the Beaches and ROWs Committee.

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. He requested that the board hold another pass distribution event to coincide with the Amston Lake Association's (ALA's) Fourth of July parade and barbecue.

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

1. F. Hoisl congratulated K. Patterson, J. Caines and J. Arpin for being elected to the board, terms beginning July 1. He also thanked both T. LaMontagne and A. Connor for their service over the last several years, saying that much of the work happens behind the scenes, and their efforts have been very much appreciated by the entire District.

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

1. A. Connor reported that as of May 31 there is a year-to-date net increase of \$31,983 in the General Fund surplus. 2. Most, if not all, of the roads fund surplus will be spent by the roads project happening this weekend. 3. A. Connor discovered that AER had applied our retainer to an invoice last fiscal year, so we were still carrying that prepaid expense on our books. She corrected the oversight – so the May report now shows the \$3,000 retainer as a current year expense under limnologist fee – lake health. 4. Insurance renewal quote was a 12% increase. 5. Workers' Comp audit was submitted. 6. Records disposal project is almost complete – waiting for the state of CT to approve disposal. We are getting down to a manageable number of physical records. She suggests that we could also apply to remove digital records. 7. She believes we should open an investment account for the money we're not accessing – one reason being that we have exceeded the federally-insured limit of \$250,000 at T.D. Bank. 8. She would like the ALD to make a small donation to HIHS – their director served on the ALD Finance Committee for several years, and one of their board members has donated her time as a graphic designer for our newsletter for the past two years. It was also noted that there are ALD residents that use the food bank. Motion to approve a

\$100 donation to HIHS in the names of Richard White and Jean Waleszyzck (F. Hoisl/A. Connor). Four directors approved, one opposed, motion carried. 9. A. Connor reported that two of the dock lottery winners have not yet signed their rental agreements and paid for their docks – further, one of the two has already put his boat at the dock. F. Hoisl will discuss the issue with dockmaster D. Arnold, who has been unsuccessful in reaching the resident. 10. The mill rate was not stated in the tax collector’s report – the new mill rates will be: Hebron 1.15 (last year 1.63), and Lebanon 2.515, which is comprised of 1.715 for the General Fund and .8 for the Roads Fund (last year 2.54).

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported water quality testing has begun, and have done one stormwater and one deepwater test. 2. Aquatic Ecosystem Research (AER) is scheduled to do the plant survey on Saturday, June 25, followed by a presentation of the 2021 Water Quality Report that afternoon at the clubhouse. 3. There are five houses in Lebanon that are still not connected to the sewers – the town has issued liens and payment plans. 4. The lake District is the only area in Lebanon with sewers, and there have recently been some significant sewer blockages. ALD resident J. Arpin has joined the Lebanon Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), and another District resident is also going to join. 5. The committee is still working on defining tasks for a possible lake health manager and is aiming for July or August to begin looking for someone to fill that role. 6. A. Fichtel reported in an email that the lake is cleaner than it was last year at this time. Last year’s algae blooms are not present this year, even without the use of barley straw. He’s investigating the use of Biochar, which is supposed to reduce algae blooms.
2. Dams: F. Hoisl said he had received the final inspection report from engineer K. Acimovic, who will send it to the DEEP. Overall the dam is reported to be in good condition, but he identified a few minor items that could be addressed in the coming year, including the riprap repair that’s been budgeted for and will likely be done in July.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reported that K. Patterson will replace M. Dagon as co-chair of the committee. 2. Main Beach: the committee is ordering one geese deterrent flag as a test. 3. Elsmere ROW: there are 15 spaces available on the boat racks. 4. Oakland ROW: will be hand raked by volunteers this season, and not a contractor; one resident had been given permission to chain their boat to a

tree, and now there are three others on the ground. F. Hoisl will contact the boat owners. 5. Lollipop Beach: the plaque has been installed on the bench, and this area also has issues with dogs. 6. Ryan Terrace ROW: still having issues with water flowing down the middle during heavy rains, one of the treads on the stairs needs replacing, and a hand rail is being considered. 7. Manion ROW: bushes need trimming on both sides. 8. The committee is going to contact a master gardener who lives on the lake with the intention of adding plants at some of the ROWs.

4. Security, Boats: 1. A. Fichtel was not at the meeting but F. Hoisl reported that there were still approximately 50 people that had registered for passes but not picked them up yet. 2. The Beach Pass Checkers have started for the season and have added two additional checkers.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. F. Hoisl reported that the Lebanon roads project on Bush Road, Andrews Street and Scanlon Terrace will take place on June 17 and 18. He thanked B. Pelegano for all his efforts in putting this project together.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen reported that this year's newsletter has been very well received, and since we have distributed all that were ordered she will order another hundred. 2. She sent an email blast targeted to the people who own property on the three Lebanon roads that will be affected by the paving project. 3. L. Bowen thanked T. LaMontagne for starting the online boat registration.

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

There was no new business to discuss.

#### **L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting**

There was nothing to add at this time.

#### **M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (A. Connor/T. LaMontagne) passed unanimously at 8:52 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.