

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting via Zoom

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: B. Pelegano, L. Bowen, J. Caines, J. Arpin, A. Fichtel, T. Nixon, K. Patterson, J. Greenfield. Absent: F. Hoisl.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting (K. Patterson/A. Fichtel), amended to reflect that under Lebanon Roads Committee, item 2, the street name should be changed from Manion Lane to Ryan Terrace. Seven directors approved, one abstained, and the motion was approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

B. Pelegano: 1. New homeowner on Ryan Terrace in Lebanon concerned about runoff onto their property from a neighboring home. The property sits in a natural gully, but B. Pelegano suggested he contact the town, as well as a contractor, to see what can be done. 2. Resident on Park Road in Lebanon asked about doing more a permanent fix to his road. 3. Resident from Woodland Road in Lebanon asked about potholes on their road, as well as something more permanent. The potholes have since been repaired. 4. Resident asked about holding a "Polar Plunge" at Main Beach. Both insurers for the ALD and the ALA advised against this event. 5. Follow-up email from a resident regarding a dog disturbance issue, which will be discussed later in the meeting under old business. **J. Arpin:** Resident at 11 Rondaly asked if the District could do anything about runoff from his neighbor's gutters and sump pump onto his property. J. Arpin suggested he contact the town as the ALD's ordinances would not cover such an issue.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Lake Passes: A. Fichtel reported that the passes have been ordered from a new vendor at a very reduced price from previous years, and should be here by February 17. K. Patterson and D. Ciarfella have been trained on the online system and L. Bowen has updated the website so that it's ready to accept registrations. Pass distribution dates will be announced mid-March via email blast and the website.
2. ALD History Document for Website: J. Arpin reported that he added some lake health items to the document that former Treasurer A. Connor had written. J. Greenfield also added some history about the recent tree work, and B. Pelegano will add some history about the Lebanon roads work. L. Bowen is working on cleaning up the typos and pulling it all together. J. Greenfield suggested that we add a disclaimer on the website that this document is just for

informational purposes.

3. Weeds Committee: President F. Hoisl had sent an email around with his ideas about the direction of the committee, and several members responded with additional comments. L. Bowen will compile everyone's comments into one document and send it to the board members for discussion at the next meeting. K. Patterson suggested that this committee be a sub-committee of the Lake Health Committee. J. Arpin emailed a link to an online mapping feature, and will possibly do a screen share with the board next month so that he can explain it in more detail.
4. Dog Complaints: After receiving a complaint from a Lebanon resident about excessive barking, L. Bowen believes that the next step should be to notify the dog's owners. B. Pelegano read ordinance 2008.13 (d) regarding pets, and discussion ensued about the roles of the town's animal control officer vs. the ALD. B. Pelegano will ask F. Hoisl to send a letter to the dog's owners.

F. Task List and Action Items

Vice President B. Pelegano went over the monthly task list. J. Arpin asked if the dam's Emergency Action Plan had been reviewed in January and if the tabletop exercise had been performed in October, but F. Hoisl was not at the meeting to answer the question.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

None of the guests in attendance asked to be recognized.

H. Receive President's Report

President F. Hoisl was not at the meeting and did not submit a report.

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

1. J. Caines reported that the tax collector's report and the financials are both posted on the website. 2. Delinquent accounts will be turned over for collection on March 1. 3. Tax Collector Eileen Curtin has registered for her continuing education courses, a requirement for the tax collector's position. 4. J. Caines stated that January income for the District was \$14,000, with expenses of \$9,300. Fiscal year-to-date collections are approximately \$147,000 of taxes and other revenue, with expenditures of \$120,000. We've collected 93% of current revenue budgeted. 5. J. Caines suggested that the board should consider collecting some extra money over the years for longer-term projects so that residents wouldn't get hit with a large tax increase at some point. L. Bowen asked that since we have historically underspent our budgets, thus leading to our current surplus, why would we need to collect additional money. J. Caines mentioned Ryan Terrace and J. Arpin mentioned Manion Lane as two very expensive projects that we should start saving for now. A. Fichtel doesn't believe that we should tax the residents for projects that may or may not occur in the future. He believes we should prepare our budgets with particular projects in mind so that residents can vote on them at the time.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. J. Arpin stated that the committee is still looking for a limnologist to replace AER, and in the meantime, the committee will continue to do deep- and stormwater testing. 2. The Lebanon WPCA has produced 500 magnets to distribute to residents regarding care of the grinder pumps. 3. The District will send out an email blast each fall regarding proper winterization of the grinder pumps – it has been added to the task list. 4. The inspection to determine where the pipe on Manion Lane transitions in size, as well as the overall health of the pipe, will be conducted next week. It is one of the first steps for the Manion catch basin design. 5. J. Arpin has been in contact with CT Water for a capacity analysis – there is a concern with new development in Hebron and how that would affect the water supply at the lake. 6. He encouraged the board members to read the report from AER regarding the plant control proposal by SOLitude.
2. Dams: F. Hoisl was not at the meeting so there was no report.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. K. Patterson reported that the porta-potties will be installed on April 1. A new enclosure at Lollipop Beach was installed last year to accommodate the larger, accessible unit, and a larger enclosure will also be built this year at Main Beach. 2. Residents that use Cove ROW have requested a bench – the committee will see if there is money left in this year's budget; otherwise it will go in next year's. 3. The broken bike rack at Lollipop will be replaced this spring. 4. They are hoping to install an ADA-compliant railing on the stairs at Ryan Terrace ROW before the season starts. B. Pelegano suggested they ask the town if a permit is necessary.
4. Beach Pass Checkers, Boats: 1. A. Fichtel said the abandoned catamaran at Lollipop Beach will either end up in the summer boat auction or it will be brought to the dump. 2. He asked who is responsible for signs and K. Patterson responded that the Beaches and ROWs Committee took a sign inventory and F. Hoisl will be ordering new signs this spring.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that there have only been two sandings this season for a total expense of \$200, and pothole repairs for \$60. He expects more pothole repairs this spring. 2. In response to a request by K. Patterson, B. Pelegano will share his long-term plan for the roads at a future meeting.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen said she will send a list of possible newsletter topics to the rest of the board before the next meeting. 2. She was pleased to confirm that our graphic designer has volunteered her services for the newsletter again this year.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

1. Motion to allow the residents at 412 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon, to replace their existing dock, which meets ALD guidelines, with exactly the same footprint, provided the town does not set further restrictions (B. Pelegano/J. Greenfield), unanimously approved.

2. Fireworks on ALD Property: Resident had written a letter hoping to put a halt to the annual Fourth of July fireworks, suggesting closing the parking lots early and hiring security. B. Pelegano said that if off-duty police were hired and made an arrest, the board would have to decide whether to press charges. In the past we have sent email blasts and installed signs informing the residents that fireworks are an ordinance violation and against state law. B. Pelegano said that people should call 911 if they are aware of fireworks being set off on District, or any, property. J. Arpin suggested we contact the state police prior to the holiday and ask them to drive through the community on those nights.

Resident Duncan Keith, 25 Island Beach Road, Lebanon: As the letter-writer, he believes it's impractical for the police to come quickly if called on a holiday. He believes we should close the gates early and have someone there to inform residents that the area is closed and that fireworks are not permitted. He believes that by taking these actions, over time it will become clear to the community that this is not acceptable behavior.

3. Annual Meeting: L. Bowen asked the other board members to consider whether the 2023 annual meeting should be held virtually, in person, or as a hybrid. She stated that the virtual format allows those residents who are not yet back for the season to attend, and makes voting much more efficient, but that it would be nice to meet in person, as we used to do. The general consensus was that hybrid would be too difficult to manage. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.
4. J. Greenfield reported that two tree projects had recently been completed: ALD split the cost of a tree removed at Oakland ROW with the neighboring homeowner, and the two ash trees on the ALD-owned lot on Deepwood Drive in Lebanon were removed. Another tree that had been a concern at Cove ROW fell by itself, away from the power lines and into ALD property, causing no damage.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

To add: Weeds Committee, dog complaints, Fourth of July fireworks discussion, annual meeting location, dam EAP and tabletop exercise.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (K. Patterson/J. Greenfield) passed unanimously at 8:37 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.