

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

April 17, 2019 7:00 P.M.

ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, CT 06231

www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, T. LaMontagne, N. Nurge, M. Dagon, A. Stec, B. Lederer.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

F. Hoisl asked if there were any corrections to the February or March meeting minutes. Since there were no corrections to the February minutes, he stated that the minutes stand approved as distributed. M. Dagon stated that she would like the March minutes amended to state that stewards had been assigned to all ROWs. With that correction to the March minutes, F. Hoisl stated that the March minutes stand approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

1. An email was received from a resident, pleased that we were working on getting dry hydrants at the lake. 2. F. Hoisl was contacted about geese control. 3. F. Hoisl received a few emails inquiring about when we'd be lowering the lake, which could not be done this year. 4. A letter was received from a resident about damage to his lakefront wall, which he said was caused by not lowering the lake this year. 5. B. Pelegano received an email supporting his comments last month about locating a dry hydrant at the duck pond. 6. Another resident asked about limiting the number of pontoon boats on the lake, which we don't have the ability to do according to our ordinances. The same resident also mentioned boats being left on the ground at Lollipop, without stickers. 7. A resident emailed photos of what appeared to be a great deal of mud in the water on the north shore of the cove that lies just north of Lollipop Beach. 8. A resident emailed to say he had 10 extra bales of straw to donate to the District.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Sign proposal/ contract: N. Nurge asked about the process for placing the order for the two new message center signs. They will replace the dilapidated bulletin boards that are at the two beaches.
2. Ryan Terrace ROW Engineer contract: 1. After an ad hoc meeting of the Beaches and ROWs committee Tuesday night, which many of the BOD members attended, the engineer agreed to redraw the plans with the changes requested. B. Lederer made a motion to approve spending \$160 to make application to the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) in order to appear at the May 6th meeting. M. Dagon seconded. Discussion ensued. F. Hoisl wants the BOD to be able to approve the plan before it goes to the IWC. B. Lederer said

the estimate from the contractor for the plan is higher than expected, in the range of \$25-30,000, so the committee is interested in getting estimates from other contractors. Yes votes: N. Nurge, M. Dagon, B. Lederer, T. LaMontagne. No votes: L. Bowen, A. Connor, B. Pelegano, A. Stec. As the tie-breaker, F. Hoisl voted no. It was agreed that the ROW will be raked out so it can be open to residents while the plan is being revised. 2. A. Stec moved to approve the second part of the engineer's contract of \$525 to attend meetings, B. Pelegano seconded, motion unanimously approved.

3. Burr Weed treatment proposal: M. Dagon stated that the proposal to spray the Burr weeds has been withdrawn due to safety concerns. F. Hoisl will give recommendations for non-chemical treatment from the Lake Health to the Beaches & ROWs Committee. M Dagon said her committee also has some ideas.
4. Pontoon boat docking: 1. Now that Aquatic Ecosystem Research (AER) is under contract with ALD, F. Hoisl will ask for their thoughts on cutting the weeds in the pontoon boat docking area at Lollipop. 2. B. Lederer was contacted by a resident who thought the lottery system for renting a dock was unfair. The Board disagreed and will not be changing the lottery system. 3. A resident asked if the pontoon boats could be kept at the docks for two weeks longer, until Columbus Day weekend. The Board thought the boats were allowed to stay until November 1 and will look into this.
5. Rogue raft at Cove ROW: The owner has not responded to ALD, so the District will tow the raft back to the owner's property at his expense, and fine him in accordance with ALD ordinances.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl went over the few outstanding items for March and April: the docks are going in next week, the date for the start of security needs to be confirmed, and the gates at the beaches are being handled by the same person as last year. Other items will be discussed under committee reports.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Drive, Lebanon

1. She stated that there is a resident that has offered to help remove the rogue raft and will pass along contact information if needed. 2. She reported that the Ryan Terrace ROW has already been raked and smoothed. All that is left to do is to remove the silt fence and caution tape. 3. She was surprised that B. Pelegano voted against putting the IWC application in for Ryan Terrace when he wasn't at the meeting with the engineer last night. She thinks the revisions to the plan that was presented last night are good.

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

Stated that engineer Joe Polulech visited the lake on February 23, took photos and identified several problem areas. At the Lake Health Committee meeting he gave a specific recommendation for a "complicated" site, the northeast cove. She wanted to

know if we are going to move forward on his recommendation. F. Hoisl stated that we were, but that we should pick the site. He said it will be discussed at the next Lake Health Committee meeting.

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

1. Jeff would like time on the agenda for reports of subcommittee meetings. The Lake Health Committee is very active and he'd like the residents to know what's going on.
2. He stated that the town of Lebanon is considering charging people who aren't connected to the sewers.
3. Water tests were done on Monday the 15th – 48 bottles from 12 locations, and the results should be in next week. They are doing considerably more work than in previous years.

Jerry Horan, 7 Rondaly Road, Hebron

1. He stated that the porta potty at Main beach has been placed in a muddy location and suggested that it be placed on gravel.
2. He confronted two people using the porta potty as a dog poop receptacle. We need to stop people from doing this, because it clogs the sanitation company's machinery and they will remove them if it continues to happen.
3. There is a very large pothole in the driveway going into the Main beach parking lot that needs to be repaired.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Drive, Hebron

1. He wanted the BOD and the audience to recognize Jeff Arpin for all the work he's doing on Lake Health Committee.
2. Al stated that Joe Polulech suggested to dredge the cove near Meadowbrook ROW five years ago, and it never happened. Now he's suggesting a big project in the NE Cove, but it seems too big. Al wonders why the NE Cove is so urgent – there are many of the same problems in other areas. He's all for fixing the problems, but we haven't determined what all the problems are.
3. He says Ryan Terrace ROW is an erosion problem. It was caused by what we've done to it in the first place, and now we have to fix it again. We keep dumping money into this ROW. He feels the solution is to plant grass, as it never erodes.

H. Receive President's Report

In lieu of a report, F. Hoisl spoke briefly about plans for the annual meeting. The officers will have a planning session and a dry run prior to the May 18th meeting. L. Bowen asked that all directors be at the library at 9 a.m. the morning of the meeting, as the doors open for residents at 9:30.

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

1. A. Connor has issued the March financial statements, which have been posted to the website. There were no questions asked. The Tax Collector's report is also on the website. We have a heavy quarter of expenses coming up.

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

1. Finance: 1. The committee met on Monday and reviewed a draft of the budget to present to the BOD. They did not recommend changing the way we budget for revenue, but for expenses they did recommend adding a 2.5% overall contingency line to be used as approved by the Board when needed for a specific expense for the entire district.
2. The committee also discussed the use

of our surplus funds. Last year we used \$40,000 of surplus, and this year, they feel we can safely propose using \$20,000 of surplus funds. A. Stec moved to approve the committee's recommended budget, B. Lederer seconded, M. Dagon abstained, seven BOD members approved and the motion passed.2. The committee recommended that ALD hire the accounting firm to conduct another "Agreed Upon Procedures" (AUP) engagement covering the fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The last one was done for FY 16 and 17. After discussion, it was decided that spending \$3500 every other year is not a good use of ALD funds and still too often for an AUP. B. Pelegano made a motion to rescind the previous motion approving the recommended budget, so that we can remove the \$1750 for the AUP audit. B. Lederer seconded, A. Connor and M. Dagon abstained; six members approved, and the motion passed. The budget will be reduced by \$1750. A. Connor will tell the accounting firm we will defer for another year.

2. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl also recognized resident Jeff Arpin for his help with the committee and said he was instrumental in negotiating the AER contract and the lab contract. 2. The committee has asked engineer Joe Polulech to identify any particular problem areas and to address if we are we doing the right things going forward.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. M. Dagon stated that the repairs at Oakland ROW are underway and should be completed soon. She noted the cost of the repairs have been reduced by \$500 due to fewer labor hours needed. 2. The beaches and ROWs cleanup is scheduled for May 4th. 3. The committee is requesting two new boat racks in next year's budget. 4. The plunge pools have had their spring cleaning. 5. M. Dagon will be resigning from the BOD June 30, the end of the fiscal year.
4. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano stated that the contract for security will be signed soon. 2. According to ALD ordinance 2008.9 (e), if the BOD deems the rogue raft a risk, we can remove it. B. Pelegano made a motion that the raft be determined a risk, and therefore an emergency, and that we take immediate corrective action, as well as fine the homeowner. N. Nurge seconded. Motion unanimously approved. 3. T. LaMontagne stated that the lake passes have been ordered, and six distribution dates have been scheduled with the ALA at the clubhouse. An email blast notifying residents of the dates and asking for volunteers will be going out next week. We will remind residents who had a boat removed and have not paid their fine, that they will be unable to get passes.
5. Lebanon Roads: A. Stec said she is waiting for the contract for culvert cleaning to arrive in the mail.
6. Signs: N Nurge will order the annual meeting and the boat pass signs, and will get the past year's information from A. Stec.
7. Communications: 1. L. Bowen stated that she and A. Stec have started to edit and assemble the newsletter, which will be available at the first lake pass distribution date. 2. L. Bowen said we have been getting new subscribers to the

email blasts each week, which it was agreed are only for verified ALD property owners. 3. A. Connor expressed her appreciation for the work that A. Stec and L. Bowen have put into the website and the email blasts.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

F. Hoisl was contacted by a resident who suggested a chemical control to keep the geese off the dam. He brought the idea to the Lake Health Committee, who want to find alternative options to control the geese.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Will add the following: geese control.

At this point, T. LaMontagne stated that he rode around the lake with the Lebanon fire officials, who identified a few possible locations to install dry hydrants. The next step is to actually measure the depths of the water in those locations.

M. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 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.