

## **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting

July 17, 2019 7:00 P.M.

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

[www.amstonlake.org](http://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, T. LaMontagne, B. Lederer, A. Fichtel, J. Greenfield.

Frank welcomed the two new BOD members and thanked them for joining.

### **C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A. Connor moved to approve the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by T. LaMontagne. L. Bowen requested to correct the second sentence under resident Mike Smith's comments, who distributed photos from 2007, not 2017. The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

### **D. Presentation of Correspondence**

1. Resident asked for replacement beach pass for car hang tag. 2. One resident found a capsized canoe near sunken island, while another resident found two kayak paddles the same day – all have been returned to the same owner. 3. Several people commented on and thanked us for the “carry in, carry out email” as well as the reminder email about dogs and fireworks. 4. Resident who works at the Douglas Library asked to post a flyer at the lake for chess night at the library. She was told the bulletin boards were for Lake business only. 5. Resident included a letter with her tax payment, complaining about the weeds in the cove north of Lollipop Beach. 6. Resident sent in information about a tagged bass that he caught – this is the first report that included the full information. A. Fichtel has received 6-8 letters/emails since the program began last fall. Al himself has only caught four of the tagged bass. 7. B. Lederer received a few emails asking that the boulders near the waterfront at Ryan Terrace ROW be moved as part of the project.

### **E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Ryan Terrace ROW: Last week the Lebanon Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC) approved the plans with a few conditions. The IWC also suggested that we hire a general contractor to manage the overall activity and the BOD discussed the possibility of hiring the engineer who drew the plan. F. Hoisl stated that the BOD will now take the project over and thanked the committee for their efforts. A. Connor clarified that the Board's oversight included holding a special District meeting for residents to vote to approve the project's costs. B. Lederer currently has one detailed quote and one un-detailed quote, with a third quote expected. A. Connor moved to go into executive session at the end of the

meeting to discuss the quotes we have thus far. B. Lederer seconded and all approved. Discussion ensued about the timing of the Special meeting, (possibly September 7), and getting the work completed in the fall.

2. B. Pelegano and J. Greenfield volunteered to take over as co-chairs of the Beaches and ROWs Committee. They plan to meet with contractors to get annual pricing on all the leaves, mowing and cleanup, and possibly have a resident co-chair. The Beaches and ROWs stewards that are in place could report to them about work they think needs to be done.
3. Discussion ensued about a lake manager feasibility study, and studying the issue within the purview of the Finance Committee, rather than starting a standalone committee.

#### **F. Task List and Action Items**

B. Pelegano went over the outstanding items for July and August. L. Bowen said she would send out the latest version of the task list and asked the other directors to reply with any changes they see for their respective responsibilities.

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

Clara O'Brien, 56 Ames Road, Hebron

Jim Riley, 18 Bass Lake Road, Hebron

Ms. O'Brien is the chair of the Hebron Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and Mr. Riley is a member. They wanted to alert the Hebron residents of the ALD to a proposed sewer project to upgrade the nine Hebron pump stations. She referenced a letter that she would like added to our website so that our residents know of the project and will come out and vote on November 5. She will email the letter to F. Hoisl and the BOD agreed to post the letter on our website.

Doug Bowen, 156 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon

1. He stated that a sediment and erosion control plan should be made a part of the Ryan Terrace construction contract, which may need to be modified during construction. 2. Earlier in the meeting a BOD member raised the possibility of hitting ledge at Ryan Terrace, and the resulting change order which could raise the cost of the project. He wondered why there would be a risk of running into ledge because the plan does not call for excavation on the site. 3. Every contractor should be looking at the same task and materials list in order to quote the job and we should have a solid price, not a range, before we contract for this work.

Marge Nichols, Spafford Drive, Lebanon

She does not think that we will be giving the three contractors being considered for Ryan Terrace ROW enough notice for them to schedule the work in the fall if we hold the Special District meeting on September 7. She would like the Board to schedule the meeting on August 24. F. Hoisl responded that it is our intention to give them as much notice as possible.

Tony Rigazio-Digilio, 190 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

1. He is in favor of hiring a general contractor to oversee the work at Ryan Terrace ROW. 2. He hopes that the BOD has considered making Ryan Terrace ROW accessible for people with disabilities. B. Lederer responded that it was considered, but

since Ryan Terrace ROW has a very steep grade, it will remain difficult to access by handicapped persons. She suggested they use other ROWs or beaches to access the lake.

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

F. Hoisl opted to forego his report in order to give time for the executive session at the end of the meeting.

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

1. A. Connor has issued the June financial statements, which have been posted to the website. They are preliminary and won't be finalized until September to allow enough time to capture all of the fiscal year data before closing the books. As of now, the District ended the year with a \$12,762 surplus, although most of that is for Lebanon Roads. A. Connor wants to move \$16,000 cumulative surplus cash from the Lebanon Roads checking account into a savings account so that we can earn interest until it is needed. 2. The Tax Collector's report is also on the website. Approximately \$40K (at least half the taxes due) were collected in July to date. 3. Our Tax Collector, Eileen Curtin, completed her certification requirements and is now a Certified Tax Collector.

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

1. New Committee Formation: 1. F. Hoisl stated that of the committee ideas that have been raised recently, he thinks a Dam Inspection Committee is the most important. The District needs to keep a photo library of the dam, so that if there is a breach, we'll have pictures to compare and can address what may or may not need to be done. A. Fichtel believes that we need to hire an engineer to inspect the dam once every 7 years. F. Hoisl will familiarize himself with the dam operations manual. 2. B. Lederer said that residents continue to ask about allowing dogs on the beaches and ROWs. F. Hoisl responded that there are dog ordinances in place that are there for safety and lake health. 3. Regarding the possibility of adding new docks for pontoon boats, A. Connor stated that one of the people who paid for a dock realized they didn't need it, so the family that didn't get a dock this spring can rent the dock for the remainder of the season. 4. L. Bowen said that starting next month the BOD meeting agenda will only list committees as needed. Committee chairs are to notify her when to include their committee on the agenda.
2. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported that Aquatic Ecosystems Research (AER) came out to look at algae and Phragmites in certain areas of the lake. 2. The committee is working with an engineer to identify areas for additional plunge pools. 3. The work that was done in the NE cove several years ago was never done to completion. The committee would like to put together a detailed plan to understand, with the town's help, about the septic hookups and plunge pools in that area, as well as the Phragmites. AER posited that the Phragmites may have been caused by dredging that area years ago and leaving the dredged material on the bank of the cove. AER suggested two options for the Phragmites: one, to chemically remove (spray once a year for three years, with a 99% success rate for eradication) or two, manual cutting, which may not eradicate the weeds 100%. The committee will continue water sampling in that

area and might have a recommendation for this issue at the August BOD meeting. 4. AER said not to be alarmed with the algae in the lake – that Amston Lake is no different this year than any of the other lakes they work with, and is actually a little clearer than some others. AER is working on getting GPS coordinates to identify sub-watersheds around the lake. F. Hoisl will ask for a proposal from them to get drone footage of our shoreline for the purpose of comparing year to year.

3. Beaches and ROWs: F. Hoisl attended the most recent committee meeting. He will give the email list of the members to B. Pelegano so that he can communicate with them about how the committee will function in the future.
4. Security, Boats: 1. B. Pelegano read aloud the ordinances regarding boats and boat stickers and who is allowed to put a boat in the lake. 2. An eblast was sent to notify residents of the last boat from 2018 that remains on Main Beach. Several people expressed an interest in taking the boat, but a neighbor of the boat's owner is taking one last stab at contacting him before we let it go.
5. Lebanon Roads: A. Stec was not at the meeting, so there was no report.
6. Signs: F. Hoisl stated that the BOD is in need of a new chair for this committee. He would like the committee to look at all the signs in the area and standardize them as much as possible. T. LaMontagne volunteered to take this on and will bring a proposal for a committee charter next month.
7. Dry hydrants: B. Pelegano reported that the Lebanon Fire Department has determined that dry hydrants won't work here due to the depth of the lake. They did say that almost every ROW could be used to get water from the lake but we would have to permanently remove the chains/boulders to allow access for the trucks. At the end of Deepwood Drive in Lebanon, the Clarks volunteered access to their property for the fire trucks. Another option is to use the Main Beach boat launch – they would have to cut the locks on the chains in an emergency. The Board had no objection to that for fire emergency purposes.

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

F. Hoisl gave permission to the Hebron Fire Department to do a training session at the lake on Monday, July 29 from 7-9 pm. We will send out an eblast to alert the residents.

A. Connor moved to go into executive session at 9:09 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contractor quotes for the Ryan Terrace ROW, B. Pelegano seconded and all approved. Executive session ended at 9:32 p.m. No actions were taken.

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

Nothing to add at this time.

#### **M. Adjournment**

A. Connor moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m., seconded by B. Pelegano, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Liz Bowen, Clerk  
Amston Lake District

Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.