

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Special Meeting

MINUTES

September 7, 2019 9:30 A.M.

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

www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors:

F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, T. LaMontagne, A. Stec, A. Fichtel, B. Lederer. Absent: J. Greenfield

C. President's Discussion of Rules and Procedures

F. Hoisl introduced the members of the Board of Directors, explained the reason for the Special Meeting, and went over the history of the project. He went over the project's costs to date as well as the proposed plans. He thanked the committee for all the work they put in and was pleased that so many residents came out to this meeting to be involved and voice an opinion.

B. Pelegano made a motion: Shall the Amston Lake District appropriate up to an additional \$20,000 for the repair and redesign of the Ryan Terrace ROW, to be completed prior to May 15, 2020, and would include adding two curtain drains; grading and seeding the site between the areas of non-disturbance as defined by the engineer; removing the stairs closest to the water; removing off-site six of the 25 previously-placed boulders closest to the water and moving 15 of said boulders elsewhere on the property; and filling in and seeding the upper half of the sandy area; with a contingency that should the contractor hit ledge or other obstructions that would materially alter the work as contracted, that we revisit or alter the design to stay within approved costs or rescind contract; and if approved, funding of the entire project, including sunk costs, will come from the Special Projects Fund. Said sunk costs (\$4,215) will be transferred back into the General Fund. The motion was seconded by M. Paul. Discussion ensued:

Erika Lindeberg, 94 Cove Rd, Lebanon

Stated that she is a licensed P.E. and appreciates that it's an engineered plan and that a competitive bid process took place. Q: Is the contractor we have chosen licensed and bonded? A: Yes. Q: Will the oversight be done by a P.E.? A: Yes.

John Connor, 145 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

He is voting no on this motion and wondered if the BOD had taken a position on this project? He is a past BOD member and doesn't remember the BOD ever not taking a position. A: F. Hoisl stated that the Board is presenting the information that was presented to the BOD by the committee.

Donna Reynolds, 21 Beech Rd, Lebanon

She uses this ROW frequently. Q: Where the grass will be in relation to the bench? She's concerned that the grass might make it slippery to come down the slope, if it's

wet or not maintained. The stones that are there now give you traction. A: F. Hoisl said there will be a maintenance plan for each ROW to keep the grass cut. The entire area where the stone is now will be grass.

A. Connor, 145 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

She heard that a lot of people think this project is endorsed by the BOD, but she stated that not all the directors are in favor. The culvert across from the ROW was finally cleaned out after the heavy rain, and she wonders if the town's cleaning the culvert and adding grass to the ROW would be a simpler and less expensive fix? The proposal we have will still be valid a year from now, so she believes we should wait and see and encourages people to vote no.

Mark Paul, 162 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

He is a former board member and also doesn't remember the BOD ever not taking a position on a project. He noted that this ROW has had erosion issues in the past. He believes that there must be a less expensive way to fix this and would like to see an alternative to this proposal.

A. Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

He is a current BOD member. He's been monitoring the erosion around the lake for many years and believes that most of the erosion is because of sand that's been added. He's not voting for this project because he believes that this ROW was affected by groundwater, and the plugged culvert has since been cleared. He's been checking for erosion before and after the culvert clearing, and it hasn't eroded further. He believes that this extensive fix is not necessary at this time and that we should wait it out.

Karen Wax, 25 West Woodland, Lebanon

Q: What effect will this plan have on the water coming down Deepwood Drive across from the ROW? A: F. Hoisl stated that the intent is to have a curtain drain at the top of the ROW.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

She stated that the ROW belongs to all of us and we have to take care of our assets. She disputes the notion that this ROW is not a beach. She spent countless hours on coming up with a plan for this ROW and encourages voting yes.

Kevin Connor, 20 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

Q: Is the \$4,250 in sunk costs in the capital budget? A: A. Connor stated that those costs were incurred in the last fiscal year and were a part of the operating budget. If approved they become a part of this project, and will be taken from the Special Projects Fund and returned to the General Fund. Q: Is the \$25,000 remaining in the Special Projects Fund guaranteed to stay at \$25,000 or will taxes be increased to bring it back to \$50,000? A: A. Connor stated that no, there is no guarantee. A new budget will be presented for a vote next year. He also believes that a 15% contingency is too high for this project and should be closer to 5%.

Kevin Grady, 199 Deepwood Dr, Hebron

If this plan is approved, he recommends that the ALD hire a full-time construction

inspector. He stated that once we start moving the rocks, it could destabilize the area.

Cynthia Wallace, 39 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon

She was disappointed in the condition of the ROW this summer. She stated that she's an older person and that steps, stones, and boulders make it difficult to get to the water. Her husband puts their boat on another ROW. Something needs to be done.

Bob Blackmore, 5 Rondaly Rd, Hebron

He stated that the ROWs are deeded to all of us and that this ROW is in need of repair.

Kelly Roy, 91 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon

She stated that Karen Wax's earlier question was not answered. She asked that we please consider doing something rather than nothing.

Marge Nichols, 18 Spafford Dr, Lebanon

She stated that people have used this ROW for many years and even people who own waterfront property use this ROW. These ROWs belong to all of us and hopes people will vote yes.

Voting was done by paper ballot. Results: 75 Yes, 31 No. The motion was approved.

D. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by
Liz Bowen, Clerk
Amston Lake District