

# AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2021 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, A. Fichtel, J. Greenfield, T. LaMontagne, K. Patterson. Absent: B. Pelegano, T. Nixon.

## C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting (K. Patterson/A. Fichtel). Four directors approved, two abstained, and the motion passed.

## D. Presentation of Correspondence

**F. Hoisl:** ALD attorney Adam Cohen emailed that the board can require social distancing, masks, proof of vaccination, etc. for people attending ALD meetings if we choose to go in-person. Currently the order allowing virtual meetings expires on April 22, 2022. **A. Connor:** She received an email from a new ALD resident, asking how to get passes and wondering what else she needed to know as a new resident.

## E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Tree Management: J. Greenfield did a walk-around with the arborist and said the last tree from phase 1 of the program, at Oakland ROW, will probably be removed in early January. 2. The dead 2-stem ash tree on the ALD-owned lot on Cove Road that was reported by the neighboring property is not an immediate hazard to any homes but could hit the power lines across the street if it fell in a storm. To drop the tree, disassemble it, and leave it on the lot would cost \$1300. T.LaMontagne will contact the Asplundh representative working in the area for Eversource to see if the Cove tree might fall within their parameters. 3. The neighbors at 355 and 365 Deepwood Drive in Lebanon have reported dead ash trees on the ALD-owned lot between them and it appears that the trees are in danger of hitting the neighbors' houses if they were to come down in a storm. J. Greenfield recommended that we first determine if the trees are actually on the ALD property before we get a quote for the work. He will ask the neighbors if they know where the boundary pins for their properties are, and A. Connor will contact engineer W. Horvath, who the ALD had hired when we inherited the land. 4. Over the summer the arborist pointed out some vines that were threatening a tree at Cove ROW, as well as the arborvitaes at Main beach and suggested that would be a good resident volunteer project – but J. Greenfield discovered that he had already cut the vines at Cove, gratis. 5. There is a large ash behind the block building at Main beach being strangled by vines, but is in a low traffic area. 6. There is a row of white pines susceptible to storm damage, but the arborist doesn't see a particular problem with them at this point. 7. Discussion ensued and J. Greenfield asked the board members to try to take a look at all these trees. A. Connor stated that there is still money left in the budget for tree work, and

anything else will have to be factored into next year's budget.

2. Lake Manager: K. Patterson met with the Lake Health Committee, who supported the idea of two separate positions, one focused on lake health, and one being more of a point person with contractors and residents. For the annual meeting they are going to focus on the second position, and will fine tune the duties and costs. F. Hoisl stated that he'd like to present two budgets at the annual meeting, one with a lake manager and one without. A. Connor cautioned that this idea could easily grow into more than is necessary – and that what we present should start small.

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

F. Hoisl went over the task list, highlighting that the board needs to start thinking about goals and objectives for 2022, and reminded everyone to take a look at their year-to-date budget numbers.

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

Jeff Arpin, 225 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. He believes that since the Deepwood lot is mostly wetlands, the arborist might prefer to work in the winter since the ground would be frozen and they would do less damage to the land. 2. He believes that state of Connecticut law has changed, and if you own a tree that falls on another person's property, the tree owner is responsible. 3. He wants to know if the board is going to establish a website committee. 4. He has found a number of files that former treasurer R. Decormier had stored on an old laptop and would like to put them in the archive folder on the ALD Google Drive.

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

F. Hoisl would like to resume in-person meetings starting with the February, 2022 meeting and asked the other board members to contact him with their thoughts. Several members said they wouldn't be comfortable meeting in-person yet. F. Hoisl said we will continue to meet online for now.

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

1. Tax Collector E. Curtin stated that she didn't do a report for the month of November, as there were no deposits. 2. The tax auction took place in November. One bidder reneged and the ALD opted not to take the property back due to the large amount of taxes owed to the town of Hebron. 2. She attended two meetings – one for the CT Certified Municipal Collectors, and the other for the CT Conference of Municipalities. 3. There have been quite a few property transfers, so she will be sending out tax bills to these new residents for January 1. 4. Treasurer A. Connor stated that there were very few deposits or bills paid this month and reminded everyone that the full report is posted monthly on the website. She entered a correction from last month which ultimately showed negative revenue for this month, since the correction was larger than the deposits made. 5. She will be sending out about 20 1099's this year, higher than the usual amount due to the number of pass checkers paid this year. 6. She has a thumb drive with what she believes could be the same files on the computer that J. Arpin has and would like to compare the files. It's only necessary to keep some of the information for three or five years. 7. She asked F. Hoisl to estimate what the District will spend on pass checkers for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl stated that the committee's meeting minutes and action items are posted on their page of the website. 2. He thanked committee members L. Parlin and J. Clark for attending the town of Lebanon's meeting for the American Rescue Plan Act. They requested that the town fund a master drainage plan, including stormwater drains around Amston Lake, and four-foot sumps in all of our drains. They also suggested that the town consider reducing the use of salt on town roads, as it eventually makes its way into the lake, and testing has shown saline levels starting to rise in the lake. 3. They discussed the lake manager position and will discuss one more time at the January meeting. 4. They reviewed the pros and cons of the benthic mat application and will discuss again at next month's meeting before making a recommendation to the board. 5. J. Arpin is trying to set up a meeting with the town to discuss the storm drain at the corner of Manion and Deepwood Drive in Lebanon.
2. Dams: 1. F. Hoisl reported that engineer Karl Acimovic completed the dam inspection, will issue a report, submit it to the DEEP, and it will be posted on the ALD website. He found no issues. 2. F. Hoisl received quotes from two contractors for adding stone to the berm along the dam. Both agreed to hold their prices until our next fiscal year. He would like to add a line item to next year's budget for this work.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon was not at the meeting so there was no report.
4. Security, Boats: 1. A. Fichtel reported that the Lollipop dock broke loose from its mooring, has been tied up to the shoreline and will remain there until spring. 2. The ALD is currently in possession of 10 watercraft, after sweeping the beaches and ROWs at the end of the season. Six have no stickers at all and will be auctioned off next season; the other four have old stickers so we might be able to track down the owners. 3. A. Fichtel will take over responsibilities for lake passes in the spring. The District is going to create a new database for the new passes and be strict about collecting the information. L. Bowen asked if we should update the form on the website, and having a fillable online form was discussed. 4. Although the passes have already been printed for this year, A. Connor suggested changing the expiration date to correspond with the season for next year.
5. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano was not at the meeting but sent an email stating that there was a small repair of \$250 on one road near the water tower.
6. Communications: 1. E. Bowen said she is meeting with our web geek soon to update the website for 2022. 2. She will be putting the approved 2022 meeting dates on the website tomorrow.

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

A. Fichtel reported that the 48-acre lot at the end of Ames Road is under contract. His wife, G. Golden, contacted G. Ostrager, the owner of the narrow strip of land that runs

along the waterfront of that lot, and asked if he would consider donating the strip to the District. The owner said he would give first right of refusal to the ALD if he were ever to sell.

**L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting**

Nothing to add at this time.

**M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (A. Connor/K. Patterson) passed unanimously at 8:56 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.