

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022 7:00 P.M.

Remote meeting via Zoom

www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, A. Connor, L. Bowen, A. Fichtel, T. Nixon, K. Patterson.

Absent: J. Greenfield, T. LaMontagne.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting (K. Patterson/A. Fichtel), unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

L. Bowen: 1. Email from resident concerned about drainage at the corner of Cove Rd. and Deepwood Dr. and what she referred to as multiple sink holes. 2. Email from Lebanon resident concerned about runoff from Deepwood Dr. after the town repaved following the sewer installation. F. Hoisl responded to both residents urging them to contact the town, as both situations involve town roads. 3. Hebron resident wondered if the association had any building restrictions beyond what the town has. B. Pelegano responded to her that we do not. **A. Connor:** 1. Inquiry from a new resident's attorney asking how the ALD taxes work. 2. Notification from the ALD insurance broker that our carrier is now excluding communicable diseases, virus and bacteria (i.e., COVID-related issues) from their policies. 3. Filled out annual government survey regarding public employment and payroll. **B. Pelegano:** 1. Resident inquiry about when boats can be put on the racks. 2. New resident on Deepwood Drive in Lebanon reported that there is a drain that is sending water directly into his yard. F. Hoisl responded to the resident and confirmed that a storm drain was installed on Kellys Corner by the District 10-15 years ago to help relieve the backup of water on one side of the road by running it under the road and releasing at the top of the property in question.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

There was no old business to discuss.

F. Task List and Action Items

1. F. Hoisl reminded everyone that the dock lottery is taking place on April 30 and the docks need to be installed by May 1. A. Fichtel has the part needed for the repair on the Main beach dock and is rounding up some help in order to install the docks next week. 2. F. Hoisl asked B. Pelegano to check if any of the culverts need a spring cleaning. 3. The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 21 and F. Hoisl will send a note to T. LaMontagne to order signs to post around the District. 4. A. Fichtel reported that the monthly rental for the portalets at the two beaches has more than doubled since last year. He will contact a few other vendors to see if he can find a better price.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

No guests or residents requested recognition.

H. Receive President's Report

1. F. Hoisl said it's possible that board meetings going forward could be in-person or even hybrid. ALA has the equipment and has successfully had their first hybrid meeting. The board is awaiting the results of a vote on a bill in the CT legislature that would allow a permanent extension of the Governor's Executive Order allowing virtual meetings. The location of the May regular and annual meetings will be posted to the website and sent out in an email blast. 2. There was discussion about whether to hire off-duty police to patrol the lake for July 4, with the general consensus being that since it doesn't decrease liability to the District, there is no reason to go to the expense. The prohibition on fireworks on ALD property is in our ordinances, it generally is in the newsletter, it's on our signs, and goes out in an email blast at least once per year.

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

1. F. Hoisl will put together a first draft of the presentation for the annual meeting and send the slides to everyone. 2. A. Connor said we've already collected our total annual budgeted revenue, so that anything we collect from now to the end of the fiscal year will put us over budget. Additionally, we're underspent on a few budget items so she suspects that we'll be able to roll the surplus over for next year and not have to raise taxes. March collections were \$13,564, which is unusually high, and the tax collector's report noted that the attorney is going after close to \$7,700 in delinquencies. Both Hebron and Lebanon have already finalized their grand lists, so she might be able to calculate the mill rate using last year's budget. 3. F. Hoisl reported that a resident had contacted him and expressed interest in the treasurer position on the board.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. F. Hoisl reported that stormwater testing has been started for the season. 2. Both towns are moving to using all salt for road treatment. Aquatic Ecosystems Research (AER) attended the last committee meeting and said it's very important to contact the towns to initiate street sweeping before a major rain in order to minimize the salt washing into the lake. 3. State senator Cathy Osten has proposed a bill get \$3.7M in state funds to draw water from the Amston Lake area up Route 85 for use in other parts of Hebron. AER will help the committee establish a water budget so that if this is approved, we'll know if there's an impact from it. F. Hoisl will send letters to Senator Osten and Congressman Joe Courtney, who are the people requesting the funding, in order to introduce ourselves and get engaged. 4. AER has completed the 2021 annual evaluation of the lake and it has been posted to the website. 5. AER will be doing another presentation at the clubhouse this year on June 25, rain date June 26. 6. The benthic mats at 430 Deepwood, Lebanon have been installed and will be in for six weeks.
2. Dams: 1. F. Hoisl is still waiting for the report from K. Acimovic, who has been delayed with a breach at another dam in CT that he oversees. 2. F. Hoisl said that one of the two dam projects will be incorporated into the upcoming budget.

3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reviewed the committee's progress on a number of projects, as per their April meeting minutes, which are on the website.
4. Security, Boats: 1. F. Hoisl and A. Fichtel are working on the calendar for the beach pass checkers – they will have most of the checkers back from last year. 2. A. Fichtel said there are several boats still unclaimed and L. Bowen said we could plan the auction for June, when people are back for the summer. 3. A. Fichtel reported that the new pass system is going great. There is discussion about making the passes good for two or even three years to cut down on costs and energy expended. He'd also like to discuss at another meeting how many passes are being handed out to people who own vacant lots. 4. He will talk to T. LaMontagne about ordering signs at the entrances to the District reminding residents to register for passes.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano has no records regarding culvert cleaning since he's taken over the Roads Committee and will contact A. Connor to compare notes. 2. He received an updated 3-year contract from our snow removal vendor, but wants to revise it to add an escape clause for lack of performance on either parties' part as a precautionary measure. 3. B. Pelegano will check with the town of Lebanon to make sure there is no need for a permit before the District mills one or two of the private roads. 4. The repair at Manion Road last year held up very well over the winter, but Ryan Terrace has a large rut. He will contact the contractor to see if there's a way to make the repair in that location last longer than a year. 5. He will work with F. Hoisl, J. Greenfield and A. Fichtel to identify the first road or two on which to test milling.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen said she had several email blasts planned for between now and the annual meeting, including one that alerts residents to the new water quality report from AER that's on the website. 2. K. Patterson has been helping to edit and update the ALD handbook. 3. L. Bowen is in the process of editing the articles for the newsletter with the hopes of getting it printed before the annual meeting. She's gotten prices from a few different printers but will likely use the same printer we've used in the past.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business to discuss.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

A. Connor would like to add a discussion of new board members to next month's meeting.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (B. Pelegano/T. Nixon) passed unanimously at 8:40 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.