

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

August 17, 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: B. Pelegano, J. Caines, L. Bowen, T. Nixon, K. Patterson, J. Greenfield, J. Arpin. Absent: F. Hoisl, A. Fichtel.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2022 meeting (T. Nixon/J. Arpin) with item C amended to say "June 15" rather than "July 15." Five directors approved, 2 abstained.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

T. Nixon: Resident concerned about fireworks at the lake proposed some ideas that T. Nixon will present to the board early next year. **L. Bowen:** Resident alerted us to some dead trees at the edge of her property, which she said abuts ALD property. J. Greenfield met with the resident and believes the abutting property is owned by the Amston Lake Company, and not the Amston Lake District.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Hybrid Meetings: T. Nixon stated that there had been talk of the board starting hybrid meetings in July. Discussion ensued but was tabled until next month when President Hoisl will be in attendance.
2. Weeds: 1. J. Arpin reported that the District has been in contact with our limnologist, Aquatic Ecosystems Research (AER), regarding the milfoil found in the lake. A. Fichtel is working with AER on the permitting process for DEEP to spray these weeds. J. Arpin thinks it's wrong for the board to act before the Lake Health Committee has made a recommendation. B. Pelegano reminded the directors that committees are resources for the board, but it's ultimately the board that makes the decision, and in the case of invasive weeds, the board needs to act quickly. 2. B. Pelegano has been in contact with another lake management company, Solitude, who works with AER, and who AER also recommended to us. Solitude has also

recommended that we use an herbicide (ProcellaCOR) to take care of the milfoil. For comparison's sake, Solitude said we could expect to pay approximately \$1000 per acre for spraying. Solitude would like to look at AER's reports before they come out to the lake, and then will follow up with some recommendations. B. Pelegano reiterated that he is merely looking for another opinion from Solitude and at this point there is no cost to the District.

F. Task List and Action Items

B. Pelegano highlighted some task list items and confirmed that they are underway or completed, including: brush clearing and leaf removal at the beaches and ROWs, the snow removal contract has been signed, J. Caines believes an outside accountant is unnecessary at this time, and he will complete the year-end financials once he receives the rate book from our Tax collector so that he can make the final adjustment. L. Bowen confirmed that we are changing the word "Security" on the task list to "Beach Pass Checkers" and that we are removing the tasks to install and remove hay bales, and fish stocking.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Laurel Hennebury, 458 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon. 1. She is now a member of the Lebanon WPCA. They would like to move the tank that is currently at the end of Deepwood Drive to an ALD-owned lot. Once the board approves a list of potential ALD sites, J. Greenfield will forward them to L. Hennebury, and she will confirm with the commission that the tank does not emit any odors. 2. There were three options when the sewers were installed 10 years ago – one was to create our own system, another was a gravity-based system, and the one that was chosen, which was the least expensive, the grinder pump system. The system has a lifespan of only about 10 – 11 years and it is expected that more systems are going to need replacing and the community needs to be prepared for those upcoming costs. Some of the failures are due to age, and some are because people are not following the guidelines for their use. She suggests the ALD work to increase resident awareness by way of the website, email blasts, and printed flyers included with ALD the tax bills. J. Arpin stated that when the system was built the designers said it would be maintenance-free but that has not turned out to be the case. The WPCA is now jetting the grease out of the lines. He also said the sewers are self-funded and the money comes solely from residents that use the sewer. 3. She displayed a very large 2" hook that was caught in a 10" bass and says that those hooks are not appropriate for "catch and release." She would like to see signage around the lake and more of an effort being made to alert

fishermen to safe fishing practices, and if you cast your line and it gets caught in a tree it should be your responsibility to cut the line and retrieve the tackle.

H. Receive President's Report

1. B. Pelegano, Vice President, reported that F. Hoisl worked with ALD attorney Adam Cohen to finalize the tax liability agreement for the waterfront property at 287 Deepwood Drive, Colchester, and that they are now a member of the District, and as such, will be paying District taxes. He thanked the property owners for their part in making this happen. 2. B. Pelegano stated that the meeting minutes should be a reflection of what happens in the meeting, but that they do not need to reflect every detail. The actual recordings are on the website for residents to listen to.

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

1. J. Caines reported that the July financials are on the website and we're in good shape. We've collected more than 50% of taxes due for both towns and also a good portion of back taxes. 2. The Workers' Comp audit has been completed and the District received a refund of more than \$2400. 3. The tax collector's report is on the website.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. J. Arpin will be taking over as committee chair in September. He read over notes from current chair F. Hoisl, who reported that deepwater testing will continue to be done by AER, but we're not currently getting enough rain to do stormwater testing. 2. F. Hoisl has been doing weekly beach testing and has found no issues. 3. A link to the reports on the website that AER provides us, covering clarity, bathymetry and plant surveys, can be given to Solitude. 4. Committee members L. Parlin and J. Clark have also been attending the Lebanon WPCA meetings. At one time there were 30 homes not connected to the sewers, and now there are only five. 5. The committee is starting to work with both towns on their Plans of Conservation and Development to help minimize erosion into the lake.
2. Dams: 1. F. Hoisl was not at the meeting so there was no report.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reported that the new accessible portalets have been installed, the steps at Ryan Terrace ROW have been repaired, and they are very pleased with the work the new contractor has done. 2. She had asked F. Hoisl to remind the pass checkers that dogs are not allowed on the beaches or the boat launch area. 3. K. Patterson reported that goose poop continues to be a

problem at Main Beach and Oakland ROW. New pooper scoopers have been ordered and the stewards for those areas will do their best to keep up with the geese.

4. Security, Boats: 1. L. Bowen reported that all five boats sold at the online auction and the District collected approximately \$450.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that the Lebanon roads that were milled this summer are hardening very well. There is a house under construction on Ryan Terrace, which was one of the roads that was considered for milling, and he remarked that it could have been disastrous to have the heavy equipment on the road so soon after milling. He will need to consider how it will be handled in the future when construction equipment damages our roads. 2. He will be meeting with the contractor that is doing the rip-rap repair at the Main Dam, to get a quote for repairing another 4 – 5 roads.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen had nothing new to report.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business to discuss.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

To add: 1. Discussion of where to relocate the Lebanon WPCA tank. 2. How to get information to Lebanon residents regarding grinder pumps. 3. Discussion of education/signage regarding fishing.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (J. Greenfield/K. Patterson) passed unanimously at 8:13 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.