

# AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Zoom and ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Rd, Amston, CT

## A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

## B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

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

## C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2022 meeting (K. Patterson/T. Nixon) unanimously approved.

## D. Presentation of Correspondence

**L. Bowen:** Email from a resident regarding owners not picking up after their dogs at Lollipop Beach. An email blast was sent as a reminder to residents. **T. Nixon:** Resident offering several suggestions to thwart the yearly July 4 fireworks ordinance violations at the beaches. The topic will be added to the agenda for the March BOD meeting. **F. Hoisl** asked the BOD to consider whether or not violators should be arrested. **K. Patterson:** Resident concerned about a group of men gathering every evening at 5 p.m. at Main Beach, and even urinating openly. **K. Patterson** stopped and talked to the men, who didn't appear to be residents, and made them aware that they are being watched. **F. Hoisl:** 1. Received a quote from The Pond and Lake Connection for the second milfoil permitting in advance of spraying, if necessary. 2. Corresponded with Lebanon town planner and public works director regarding the guardrails near 208 Deepwood, on the downhill curve. They suggested adding signs and reflective markers. **B. Pelegano** stated that the guardrails that are in place now are in poor condition and the town is responsible for repairing them, to avoid a car sliding into the lake. **F. Hoisl** will contact them again. 3. The insurer for the District has denied the claim for damages from the tree on ALD property on Bass Lake Rd, Hebron, that fell on a resident's property. 4. Email from the association at Hidden Lake, concerned about the proliferation of short-term rentals (STRs) and their effect on the health of the lakes in the area.

## E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Lake Passes: 1. A. Fichtel solicited and received three quotes for supplying our passes this year. The company with the lowest bid comes highly recommended by the director of a large local recreation area that L. Bowen is familiar with. Motion to award this year's pass contract to Rydin Corporation (B. Pelegano/ L. Bowen) unanimously approved. 2. Discussion regarding the pros and cons of going to a two-year pass this year. Motion to continue with a one-year expiration for this (2023-24) year (K. Patterson/T. Nixon); Patterson, Nixon, Arpin and Caines approved, Bowen, Fichtel and Pelegano opposed, and the motion passed.

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

F. Hoisl asked the directors to have their initial budgets for FY 23-24 ready to present to him and J. Caines by the end of February.

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

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. 1. He hopes that the fireworks discussion next month is not limited to ALD properties, as many District residents set them off on their own private properties, even though they are illegal in the state of Connecticut. 2. He is pleased that the District lake passes will be distributed on a one-year basis, as the ALA sells their memberships at the distribution events.

John Peters, 0 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon. He owns a building lot on Ryan Terrace and would like to install a gravel driveway prior to the start of home construction. B. Pelegano doesn't see an issue with it, providing the driveway doesn't create an adverse reaction to our private road.

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

F. Hoisl asked all the directors to tighten up their budgets for 2023-24 as best they can. K. Patterson said the history document that former Treasurer A. Connor prepared, with a comprehensive list of past capital improvements, could be useful in planning for when certain items might need repair/ replacement.

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

1. J. Caines summarized the tax collector's report and the financials, which are both on the website. 2. The District collected approximately \$131,000 of income year to date. Tax Collector E. Curtin should receive the grand lists from both towns by mid-February. 2. The District collected \$3800 in December, with expenses of \$3,500. 4. J. Caines asked if it would be possible to transfer some of the money from our Invasive Weeds Fund to the General Fund, so that it could be used for other purposes, such as the

Lebanon private roads. B. Pelegano, head of the Lebanon Roads Committee, stated that he was against such a plan. Discussion ensued. Several board members agreed that the amount of money that is in the Weeds Fund is a comparatively small sum with respect to the potential cost of dealing with an invasive weeds outbreak, as we are currently.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. J. Arpin said they are still considering their options for hiring a limnologist to replace AER. 2. They have given the letter from the residents in Lollipop Cove asking for some sort of weed control, as well as a quote for services from SOLitude, to AER, and will also give it to Northeast Aquatic Research, for their opinions. 3. The Lebanon WPCA has removed the tank at the end of Deepwood Drive. 4. The committee is working on a list of items that relate to Amston Lake for the Hebron Plan of Conservation and Development. 5. They are having initial discussions with the town of Hebron about the town's use of salt on the roads. 6. The committee has identified a company and is seeking an estimate from them for inspecting the pipe that runs between Manion Road and the lake, hoping to get it done in this fiscal year.
2. Dams: F. Hoisl reported that although all the weir boards have been removed, the lake is still only down about 6-7 inches, although the goal was to lower it by 12 inches. The boards will start to be replaced in mid-March. F. Hoisl said we try to reduce the water in the lake in the fall so that homeowners (and the District) can make any repairs to their waterfronts, and also by having the water down it could kill some weed growth. However, rainfall in the last few years has kept the water level higher than desired.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. There was no meeting this month, but T. Nixon reported that the silt fences have been installed, a broken bike rack was removed, and the fallen/damaged signs at the beaches and ROWs have been removed for now. K. Patterson will make a list of signs that need to be ordered and replaced. 2. The catamaran at Lollipop Beach appears to have been abandoned, as its owner sold their property in the District. If A. Fichtel cannot reach the owner, the boat will either end up in the summer boat auction or it will be brought to the dump.
4. Beach Pass Checkers, Boats: 1. F. Hoisl had nothing to report at this time.

5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that since we haven't had snow we still have quite a bit of money left in the budget. 2. He canceled an appointment that J. Arpin had scheduled with an engineer to give us recommendations for Manion Lane in Lebanon, as he felt the meeting was premature and he discovered that the District was going to be charged for the consultation. He will be meeting with Extreme Maintenance to see if they can do a better fix for these two roads this spring, while knowing that a more permanent fix is needed for the long term. K. Patterson asked which portion of Ryan Terrace is owned by the town and B. Pelegano replied that it is the paved portion that connects to Spafford.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen reported that she's put tax collection in a more prominent position on the website and added an alert about the January 1 due date at the top of the page. 2. She uploaded several historical year-end financial documents, dating back to 2008, to the archive section of the Google drive, with a link from the Finance page. 3. She updated the boat inspectors list and the lake pass forms for 2023 so that they are ready to go when the season starts. 4. Several email blasts were sent. 5. She asked all the directors to look at their respective pages on the website and send her any suggested changes.

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

1. ALD history document for website: J. Arpin emailed the directors a document that former treasurer A. Connor had written. He will upload it to the Google Drive and has asked everyone for their comments so that it can be finalized for the website.
2. SOLitude proposal for Lollipop Cove: In response to a letter signed by residents of five properties in and around the cove north of Lollipop Beach with concerns about weeds in that cove, B. Pelegano and F. Hoisl met with representatives of SOLitude to get their recommendations and an idea of pricing. The proposal included both hydro-raking and chemical control. F. Hoisl would like to create a committee, made up of residents and chaired by B. Pelegano, to identify options for weed removal in the lake overall, not exclusively for this cove. Discussion ensued. K. Patterson and A. Fichtel objected to B. Pelegano chairing a committee that could directly affect his waterfront and B. Pelegano agreed to step aside if another chair could be found.

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

To add: Fourth of July fireworks discussion.

#### **M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (T. Nixon/ K. Patterson) passed unanimously at 9:32 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.