

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

March 15, 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. J. Greenfield joined the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2023 meeting (K. Patterson/T. Nixon), unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

B. Pelegano: 1. Received follow-up email from a resident regarding fireworks, which will be discussed under old business. **F. Hoisl:** 1. Received an email requesting a benthic map application from resident that also requested one last year. Once completed and returned, he will forward it to the Lake Health Committee for review. 2. Email from a realtor looking for information about a house for sale on Church Street in Hebron which, it turns out, is not in the District.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Lake Passes: K. Patterson reported that six pass distribution dates have been set and are listed on the website, with the first being April 1 at the ALA clubhouse. They will have envelopes to hand out to Lebanon residents with information from the Lebanon WPCA. The Lake Health Committee and the Amston Lake Association will also be at the distribution events.
2. ALD History Document for Website: J. Arpin reported that he's received additional input for the document from several board members. L. Bowen reported that she's almost finished editing the documents with help from K. Patterson. They've determined that the document is made up of three sections and they would like to combine the history and the maps into one document that will remain as written on the website. The last section is a list of improvements done at the lake over the years that will be stored on the Google Drive and can be added to whenever improvements are made.
3. Weeds Committee: Board President F. Hoisl would like to create a photographic history of the lake, especially the coves, over the last 20 years, and continue it into the future by taking drone pictures with GPS coordinates twice a year to monitor what the coves look like over time. Discussion ensued. J. Arpin said that our former limnologist, Northeast Aquatic Research, recommended monitoring lake plant growth – i.e., where are good places to let plants grow, and where they should be actively managed. F. Hoisl asked J. Arpin to download

past UConn aerial image photos for the cove north of Lollipop, the undeveloped cove in the northern part of the lake, the southwest cove, and the duck pond. K. Patterson recommended that we contact the residents in Lollipop Cove that wrote the letter last year and give them an update on actions the board is taking, and also suggest to them that if they have an immediate need, they can apply to install a benthic mat in front of their property.

4. Dog Complaints: A. Fichtel met with the resident that voiced a concern about excessive barking, who shared recordings of the dogs and the bark logs that animal control had asked them to keep. L. Bowen believes that even though it's an uncomfortable situation, residents expect us to enforce the ordinances – and that the next step should be to contact the dogs' owners, starting with a phone call. B. Pelegano was concerned about the wording of ordinance 2008.13 (f) regarding pets, because it says if the board determines the animals are a nuisance, as defined by the town of Lebanon animal control officer, they shall be removed from the District. No one on the board wants to see an animal removed. F. Hoisl will phone the dog's owners.
5. Fireworks on ALD Property: The District resident that raised this concern emailed the board and identified a security company to hire for July 3 and 4. F. Hoisl stated that we have not had a positive experience with private security in the past, and we would have to have them posted at both beaches, all seven ROWs and other ALD properties, and believes that closing the beach parking lots early would just result in people parking on the street. He is not discounting the problems that fireworks cause, as well as their being illegal in the state of CT and against ALD ordinances. He recommends that we install additional signage on the beaches and ROWs and do additional email blasts prior to the fourth of July. T. Nixon will contact the towns to see if they can do additional drive-bys over the July 4 holiday.
6. Annual Meeting: Motion to hold the May 20, 2023 annual District meeting at 10 a.m. via Zoom (L. Bowen/B. Pelegano). Five directors approved, three opposed and the motion passed.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl stated that March is a busy month and asked the directors to check the list for their responsibilities. He noted that there is upcoming activity for the dam, boats, beaches and ROWs – everything required to get ready for the summer season. J. Arpin and F. Hoisl are hoping reinstall the weir boards and grate, and ensure that the valve is operating properly, on Monday, March 21.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

None of the guests in attendance asked to be recognized.

H. Receive President's Report

1. F. Hoisl thanked the board members for submitting their budgets. He will meet with Treasurer J. Caines soon in preparation to present a proposed budget to the board at the April meeting. After the budget is approved to be recommended to the District, it will be posted to the website and then discussed and voted on at the annual meeting in May. In response to a question from A. Fichtel, F. Hoisl said the board would discuss how to handle any budget surplus at the April

meeting.

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

1. J. Caines read through Tax collector E. Curtin's report, which can be found on the website, and noted that she has not yet received the grand list from either town, which will be used to set the ALD tax rate. 2. J. Caines reported February revenue of \$4300 and expenses of \$7800, with year-to-date revenue of \$151,000 and expenses of \$128,000. It leaves \$58,000 to spend to hit our projected budget for this fiscal year. The ALD has approximately \$313,000 in the bank in cash. He would like to discuss and clarify what is meant by surplus at the April meeting so that we can then decide what to do with it.

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

1. Lake Health: 1.J. Arpin stated that the committee is meeting with a prospective limnologist next week. 2. The committee put together a draft guidance document to use for testing at the beaches. 3. They had a report put together from the Manion pipe inspection, which seems to indicate that the size transition is in the last 45 feet of pipe. They will set up a meeting with the town of Lebanon about the next steps for the catch basin installation. 4. The committee will be at the pass distribution events and hope to attract new members to their team.
2. Dams: F. Hoisl reported that a tabletop dry run of the Emergency Action Plan will be held at the clubhouse on Monday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. K. Patterson reported that the porta-potties will be installed the first week of April. A new enclosure at Lollipop Beach was installed last year to accommodate the larger, accessible unit, and a larger enclosure will also be built this year at Main Beach. 2. A new bench will be installed at Cove ROW. 3. The broken bike rack at Lollipop will be replaced this spring. 4. The spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, with a rain date of Sunday, April 30. Volunteers are asked to meet at the clubhouse at 9:30 for coffee and donuts.
4. Beach Pass Checkers, Boats: 1. F. Hoisl said this is the third year using residents as beach pass checkers and he will contact last year's checkers to see if they will be returning. We will send an email blast If additional checkers are needed. 2. There is still some question about who owns the abandoned catamaran at Lollipop Beach.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano stated that the cost to either mill, pave, or a combination of both starts at \$230,000 to well over \$300,000. He compared that to the \$3,000 spent most years to resurface the roads. He also considered the effects of paving steep roads like Ryan Terrace and Manion Lane, because the salt/sand we'd be required to put down for every winter snow/ice event, would eventually run off into the lake after every rainstorm. After

discussions with several residents of the Lebanon roads, he is starting to believe the cost (in dollars and runoff concerns) of milling/paving all the roads is not justified. Next year's proposed budget will allow for plowing, sanding, and the \$3,000 spring fix of the roads (scraping, vibrating and compacting). The roads seem to have the same issues year after year, so he will be meeting with several contractors to discuss ways to fix the issues and slow down the water without milling or paving, but possibly by adding curtain drains, better pitching, or changing the grade. 2. F. Hoisl stated that some of the Lebanon roads have damaged or missing street signs and he will look into having them replaced.

6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen said she's received a few articles for the newsletter and K. Patterson is working on several more. 2. The website has been updated with information on the 2023 pass distribution, and an email blast will be going out to announce the first date, which is April 1.

K. New Business - Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business to discuss.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

There was nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (K. Patterson/T. Nixon) passed unanimously at 9:06 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.