

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

April 19, 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 7:01 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.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting (B. Pelegano/ K. Patterson), amended to reflect that under item D, Correspondence, F. Hoisl item 2, benthic “map” should be changed to benthic “mat.” Motion unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

T. Nixon: Received a follow-up email from resident regarding fireworks, who included suggested wording for signs. T. Nixon will order signs to be placed around the lake prior to the July 4 holiday.

A. Fichtel: Received a benthic mat application from a resident, which was forwarded to the other board members. **F. Hoisl:** Email from a committee member of the Amston Lake Association (ALA), with an outline of \$31,000 worth of repairs to the clubhouse, requesting financial assistance from the District. This item will be added to the agenda under New Business.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Weeds Committee: J. Arpin put together a document with 22 pictures of the lake and is planning on combining it with other information that the committee currently has, and sending it to the residents that asked about the weeds in Lollipop Cove last year. He will draft a response and send it around to the board for review.
2. Dog Complaints: F. Hoisl contacted the owners of the dogs that a resident complained were barking excessively. Both parties have been in touch with the local animal control officer and F. Hoisl is satisfied that they are working toward a resolution. He stated that the issue is closed with regards to the District’s involvement.
3. New notification requirement for CT Pesticide Application: The Pond and Lake Connection, which the ALD hired last year for milfoil treatment, notified the District of a new notification requirement in effect for aquatic pesticide applications to water bodies in Connecticut. The requirement is “to provide notice of the date of the application(s) to any owner or tenant of shoreline property that abuts the lake or pond to be treated with more than one owner. Email notification is acceptable.” Another treatment has been suggested for this spring, so several board members will collaborate by checking their email lists, and mailing or hand-delivering notice to shoreline residents if necessary.

F. Task List and Action Items

F. Hoisl highlighted some upcoming tasks: year-end accounting review, spray for poison ivy, adding the proposed budget to the website, preparation for the annual meeting, lake passes, and the newsletter. Most of the items are underway.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Todd Angelucci, 260 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon. He is one of the residents that wrote to the board last fall, asking about the weeds in the cove north of Lollipop Beach that seem to be getting progressively worse. He'd like to know if anything had been decided on to help make that area (and others) better. F. Hoisl said there would be some discussion later in the meeting as part of the Lake Health Committee report.

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. Was concerned about the annual meeting being held on Zoom, and individual residents being unable to vote if they don't own more than one device. L. Bowen explained that this is our fourth year of doing the meeting virtually, and we have never received a complaint from a resident about being unable to vote. She and F. Hoisl would be happy to talk to anyone who anticipates a problem being able to vote.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl ceded the time for his report in order to spend more time discussing the FY 2023-24 budget.

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

1. J. Caines said Tax Collector E. Curtin's report can be found on the website, and noted that she believes that tying pass distribution to back taxes has proven to be an effective tool for collection. There are still a few properties that will be turned over to the attorney.
2. J. Caines reported March revenue of \$9,000 and expenses of \$6,900, with year-to-date revenue of \$160,322 and expenses of \$134,450, leaving \$55,000 to meet our projected expense budget for this fiscal year.
3. J. Caines reviewed the proposed FY 2023-24 budget with a total revenue budget of \$125,000, a total expense budget of \$157,600 (vs. the current year of \$158,825), and \$30,000 for the Lebanon roads, for an additional reduction of cash on hand of \$32,600. Expenses are basically flat from the current year. Motion to approve presenting J. Caines proposed budget at the annual meeting (K. Patterson). There was no second. Discussion ensued regarding fund balances and the use of surplus funds. K. Patterson withdrew the motion. F. Hoisl asked to move up the discussion of the clubhouse repairs since we were discussing the budget. A. Fichtel asked how we could discuss spending \$31,000 when it was presented to us with little detail and on such short notice. J. Matra, ALA president, discussed a number of problems with the clubhouse, as it's an old building, but important to the community. A sub-committee was only able to secure a bid from one contractor, and they have whittled down the list of repairs to only what is necessary. Drew Gibson, 8 Rondaly Rd, Hebron, stated that these repairs are

long overdue. Several board members spoke in support of providing some assistance to the ALA for this effort, but that we didn't have enough time or information to make any immediate decision. Motion to approve presenting the revenue and expense budget as proposed by J. Caines to the residents at the annual meeting (K. Patterson/J. Caines), then amended to decrease the Lebanon roads budget from \$30,000 to \$24,000 (K. Patterson/T. Nixon), unanimously approved.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. J. Arpin stated that their detailed meeting minutes have been posted to the website. 2. The plant survey will be taking place in June, and once the report is issued, they will have more information for the residents in Lollipop Cove. 3. F. Hoisl contacted five companies regarding drone service to map out the lake – he'd like to have a visual of the entire shoreline twice a year. One of the companies suggested that we might be better served by a mapping company. 4. The most recent benthic mat application will be reviewed by the committee.
2. Dams: F. Hoisl reported that the rotted overhang at the duck pond dam was removed, and a new chain link fence will be installed shortly.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. K. Patterson reported that the spring projects they mentioned at the last meeting have been completed. 2. The spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 29. 3. She was appreciative of the email blast reminding people of the law about wearing life vests at this time of year, since we have had a few 90-degree days. 4. B. Pelegano suggested to T. Nixon that our signs alerting residents to the "no fireworks" ordinance include only the ALD ordinance, as it is more restrictive than the state statute.
4. Beach Pass Checkers, Boats: 1. F. Hoisl said that one of last year's checkers is not returning, but he'll be meeting with the others in the coming weeks.
5. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano stated that the contractor we have been using will repair and compact the washed-out areas on all of the private roads, and bring in eight tri-axles of processed stone to repair and compact Ryan Terrace, Manion Lane, and Kelly's Corner. Because the snowfall this year was so light, money remains in the budget to do these three roads. Processed stone will be added as needed to individual roads year after year. This should have a longer-term effect than what's been done in the past. A. Fichtel thinks this is a great approach.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen said the ALD history document has been posted to the website, and the "Significant Events and Expenditures" page is linked under the Finance tab. 2. She's received several articles for the newsletter, is still waiting for a few more, and if anyone has any pictures to add they should send them to her.

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 (A. Fichtel/B. Pelegano) passed unanimously at 9:55 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.