

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

May 17, 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 April 19, 2023 meeting (K. Patterson/T. Nixon), unanimously approved.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

B. Pelegano: Email from the owners of 39 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon, who regraded their driveway and believe that their neighbor's new driveway installation created some water backup on their property. B. Pelegano suggested they first contact the town, and that he would get back to them after our roads contractor looks at Ryan Terrace as a whole. **A. Fichtel:** Email from a lakefront resident regarding the level of filamentous algae in front of their property. A. Fichtel responded with some information about algae and said we are having a heavy season. **K. Patterson:** Email from a Park Rd. resident asking if permission was required from the District to install a fence on their property. K. Patterson responded that there wasn't.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. New notification requirement for CT Aquatic Pesticide Application: Several board members compiled a list of email addresses for shoreline properties that abut Amston lake to meet this new state requirement, should further milfoil treatment be necessary. A few email addresses are still missing, but those property owners can be contacted by USPS mail.
2. Consideration of funding ALA clubhouse repairs/improvements: F. Hoisl stated that since the last ALD meeting the ALA clubhouse committee has gathered additional quotes for the work. F. Hoisl asked Treasurer J. Caines to revise the previously-approved budget recommendation by adding a line item to the FY24 budget, based on the first quote received. He asked him to use his discretion to minimize the need to raise taxes. By adding a line item in the budget at this time, we know the current level of budget surplus, and we'd avoid having to hold a special meeting sometime in the future. He doesn't anticipate any of the work to begin until after the summer. This item and its effect on the proposed budget will be further explored during the budget discussion.

F. Task List and Action Items

1. F. Hoisl highlighted some upcoming tasks: In May, preparation for the annual meeting with signs and voter registration. In June, mailing the tax bills and reviewing our storage needs. 2. In response to L. Bowen's reminder that the task list states that budgets should be submitted to the treasurer by February 28 each year, A. Fichtel said there's never been a problem with directors submitting their individual budgets on time, but this year the ALA's request came very late in the budgeting process, which caused this last-minute revision.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Sue Matyszyk, 87 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon. As a member of the ALA Clubhouse committee, their goal is to receive all the contractor quotes prior to the annual meeting, and prior to the budget being published.

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. As president of the Amston Lake Association (ALA), he stated that the ALA clubhouse is approximately 70 years old, and although they've done some small interior improvements, there are still some serious issues and deferred maintenance that need to be addressed.

Brett Harlow, 403 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon. Asked why the ALD was considering giving the ALA money for clubhouse repairs when they don't own the property. F. Hoisl answered that ALA does own the property – the former owner deeded the property over to the ALA for as long as they continue to use it as a clubhouse.

Maureen Dagon, 144 Deepwood Drive, Hebron. She thanked the board for the additional monetary support given to ALA this winter that allowed the clubhouse to remain open. She believes the clubhouse is the heart and soul of the community and it needs to be kept up.

Ann Riley, 497 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon. She has spoken to a neighbor regarding his discharging of firearms at random times, and was rebuffed. She also contacted the town constables, who say there are no ordinances regarding discharging of firearms. She stated that the ALD does have an ordinance that prohibits this practice and wonders what the process is to enforce the ordinance. F. Hoisl says if the board finds that an ordinance has been violated, the resident can be subject to fines. He will contact the other resident.

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 reported April revenue of \$5,900 and expenses of \$3,900, with year-to-date revenue of \$166,200 and expenses of \$138,000, for a net inflow of \$27,800. The current year tax collections are at 94% and back taxes are at 63%. He remarked that Tax Collector E. Curtin says that residents wanting to obtain lake passes has proven to be a good motivator

for tax payments.

2. J. Caines reviewed the revised proposed FY 2023-24 budget with a total spending plan of \$196,000, of which \$150,000 will be funded with new tax revenue and the balance of \$46,000 will be funded using non-tax revenue of \$7,000 and unspent prior year general funds of \$39,000. The two items driving the revision are a \$20,000 line item for a contribution towards the repairs and improvements to the ALA clubhouse, as well as an increase in costs for the new limnologist. The \$24,000 Lebanon roads budget remains the same as was approved last month. Discussion ensued. Motion to approve presenting the revised proposed budget to the residents at the annual meeting as presented by J. Caines (B. Pelegano/ J. Caines). Six directors approved, one opposed, and the motion passed.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. J. Arpin reported that their meeting minutes have been posted to the website. 2. They are sending three options to the town of Lebanon for the work on Manion Lane, and have added a line item to the budget for a plunge pool in that area. 3. They have identified a limnologist to succeed AER, and are close to finalizing the contract. 4. He attended a cyanobacteria workshop hosted by DEEP and hopes to share some of what he learned with the District. 5. He put together an extensive response to the Lollipop Cove residents regarding the weeds in that area. Considering the milfoil found in the lake last year, the committee and the limnologist would prefer not to do any large-scale plant management this year. For this year they recommend benthic barriers and careful hand-pulling in that area. Discussion ensued. B. Pelegano stated that there are so many weeds in that area that boaters at the ALD slips have to cut the weeds off their boats, and then they are being dumped back in the water to propagate.
2. Dams: F. Hoisl reported that the rotted overhang at the duck pond dam was removed, and a new chain link fence was installed.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reported that two residents would like to donate benches to the District, in memory of loved ones. 2. The volunteer spring cleanup was canceled due to weather, but a contractor will be picking up the debris and leaves next week. 3. The beaches will be raked before Memorial Day. 4. The signs at Lollipop need repair/ replacement, especially the large painted sign. 5. The porta-potties continue to be a problem with people dumping their weekly trash or dog poop bags. The company will remove them if this continues.
4. Beach Pass Checkers, Boats: F. Hoisl reported that they held their first meeting of the season, and they will start checking passes beginning Memorial Day weekend and continuing through Labor Day.
5. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano stated that our current roads contractor will repair and

compact the washed-out areas on all of the private roads, and is coming back to re-examine Ryan Terrace, Manion Lane, and Kelly's Corner. They have some further suggestions about what to do to decrease washout. He is hoping the work will be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year.

6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen stated that she would be picking up the newsletter from the printer on Friday and has been busy updating the website and sending eblasts in preparation for the annual meeting.

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 (J. Arpin/K. Patterson) passed unanimously at 9:00 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.