

## **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

June 21, 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 7:05 p.m.

### **B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors**

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

Absent: B. Pelegano, J. Greenfield.

### **C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2023 meeting (T. Nixon/K. Patterson) unanimously approved.

### **D. Presentation of Correspondence**

**L. Bowen:** 1. Email about an unleashed dog on Lollipop on Memorial Day, as well as a motorbike all over the lake. 2. Email asking why they got a warning sticker on their car parked at Cove ROW. There are signs stating no parking allowed at this ROW. 3. Email from owner upset that his tenant couldn't get lake passes due to unpaid taxes, stating that he believed he didn't have to pay taxes if he didn't use the lake. 4. Email asking about building covenants at the lake – she was encouraged to look up the town zoning regulations. 5. Email from resident concerned that another resident had trimmed the trees lining Woodland Drive, Lebanon, without owners' permission, and left the trimmings by the side of the road. Another resident ultimately cleaned up the debris. If tree branches are interfering with egress on the District-owned roads, residents should contact the board rather than taking matters into their own hands. F. Hoisl will work with B. Pelegano to inspect the trees on the Lebanon roads. **F. Hoisl:** Email from resident who said they received a warning sticker while parked at Ryan Terrace ROW even though they stated that they had the appropriate pass displayed, and wanted F. Hoisl to remove it.

### **E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. Discharging of Firearms in the District: In response to a resident's concern at last month's meeting, F. Hoisl confirmed that neither the town of Lebanon nor the Amston Lake District have an ordinance specifically prohibiting the discharge of firearms. Lebanon relies on the state of CT statutes, which prohibit discharging firearms within 500' of a building occupied by people or animals, unless you own the property. The resident who raised the concern was urged to contact the police if the activity continues.

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

F. Hoisl highlighted some upcoming summer tasks – including reviewing committee structures, email blast for tax bill reminders, summer boat auction, brush clearing, and getting snow removal

contract in place.

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

John Matra, 265 Deepwood Drive, Hebron, representing the Amston Lake Association (ALA):

1. The ALA has received seven estimates for the clubhouse repairs. The committee is working on prioritizing the repairs and hope to start work in late August or September. 2. ALA upcoming events include: Fishing Derby & Movie Night June 24; Chocolate Bingo on the Beach June 27; 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, starting at Lollipop this year and ending at the clubhouse with an ice cream bar; all-day Yoga Fest July 8 (10 sessions of yoga 8:45 a.m. – 7 p.m.); and Lake Day August 5.

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

F. Hoisl said there are benefits to having meetings in person, as well as benefits to having hybrid meetings, but would like the meetings to go back to completely in person. He'd like the board members to consider dropping the hybrid option starting in July.

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

1. J. Caines reviewed Tax Collector E. Curtin's report, showing collections for May of \$3,404, and year-to-date of \$166,220. She also reported submitting the M1 report to the OPM.
2. As treasurer, J. Caines reported May collections of \$3,400 in tax revenue; \$1,800 of other revenue, including \$1,400 of dock rental revenue; and \$350 of interest income. Expenses for May were \$12,068. The financials show a total of \$171,500 of year-to-date revenue, and a total spend of \$150,450, for a net inflow of \$20,960. Year-to-date the District has spent approximately \$8,000 more than we've taken in, so we're getting closer to our goal.
3. In response to some discussion at the annual meeting about possibly taking out a loan versus keeping money in reserves, J. Caines was told by our bank that, as a municipality, in order for the ALD to take out a bank loan, the bank would require a personal guarantee. He intends to speak to the officials in both Hebron and Lebanon about their practices for fund reserves. L. Bowen wondered if the ALD had to sign such a guarantee when we took out the \$98,600 loan for the dam repair in 2007.

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

1. Lake Health: 1. J. Arpin reported that the committee approved a brief time extension for the benthic mat at 430 Deepwood, Lebanon and will compare this year's results to those of 2022. 2. The first deepwater test took place June 5 – dissolved oxygen and secchi depth were very good – and the company installed a miniDOT to monitor dissolved oxygen and water temperature. 3. Our limnologist, GZA, will be on the lake at 8 a.m. on July 29 with an electric boat to do another deepwater test, plant inspection, and a more detailed review of the lake as a whole. 4. The Aquatic Ecosystems Research (AER) yearly report is now linked on the website and they will be doing their final yearly presentation at the clubhouse on August 12, time TBD. GZA will take over and do the presentation next year. 5. The

committee has cleaned up and updated the lake health archives that are stored on the Google Drive. 6. Test results for E. coli on the beaches have been satisfactory. 7. The filamentous algae that was in the southwest cove several weeks ago dissipated fairly quickly and is now gone. 8. It came to the committee's attention that a resident was planning on spraying the weeds at his shoreline. He was sent an email to notify him that this was against the ordinances. 9. The committee would like to add a reminder about grinder pump winterization to the fall task list. 10. F. Hoisl was notified by the dockmaster that residents who are renting dock slips at Lollipop continue to have trouble with weeds and it was suggested to try a benthic mat in that area. Another suggestion was to cut the weeds just below propeller depth. 11. F. Hoisl is close to signing a contract with a drone company to take photos of the coves on a regular basis.

2. Dams: F. Hoisl had nothing new to report.
3. Beaches and ROWs: 1. T. Nixon reported that she and K. Patterson reviewed all the plunge pools with Lake Health Committee members J. Arpin and J. Clark and will start scheduling cleanings, likely beginning with Lollipop. 2. Last pass distribution is Friday, June 23, 4 – 6 p.m. K. Patterson reported that 580 beach and auto passes have been assigned, with 56 still to be distributed. Last year there were 615 for the entire season. 1676 boat stickers have been assigned. 3. Poison ivy on ALD properties has been sprayed.
4. Beach Pass Checkers, Boats: F. Hoisl reported that the beach pass checkers have now been working for four weeks, and will be coming into the busy season. 2. A. Fichtel will send L. Bowen information and pictures of the four kayaks and one inflatable for this year's auction to be held near the end of July. 3. A. Fichtel said that an Ames Road resident reported that non-residents are parking along Ames Road and launching their kayaks from the lot with the boat rack, which is privately owned, and not owned by the District. He is going to put a sign on the property that says "no pass, no entry."
5. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano was not at the meeting but sent an email reporting that he would be getting a quote from the roads contractor at the end of the week, and still hoped to have the work completed by the end of June.
6. Communications: L. Bowen stated that she had sent 7 email blasts since the last 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 (A.Fichtel/J. Caines) passed unanimously at 8:43 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.