

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
October 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 7:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, L. Bowen, J. Caines, J. Greenfield, J. Arpin, A. Fichtel, K. Patterson.
B. Pelegano arrived at 7:19.

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2023 meeting (J. Greenfield/J. Caines) passed with six directors' approval and one abstention.

D. Presentation of Correspondence

J. Arpin: 1. Emails from K. Rustico, 253 Deepwood Dr, Hebron regarding plant control measures in the lake and virtual meetings. 2. Resident at 430 Deepwood, Lebanon, submitted a benthic mat request for 2024. **L. Bowen:** 1. Email from J. Clark, 6 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon wanting to restate her comments from last month's meeting: she doesn't know how far the *Phragmites australis* has spread into the water, but she believes it has spread 20-30' on land in the last two years. 2. Resident emailed with concerns about pedestrian behavior on District roads. **F. Hoisl:** At last month's meeting he stated that a homeowner contacted him about a diseased tree on their property at 15 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon that abutted ALD property, but it was actually a tree on ALD property that abutted the homeowner's property, making it the District's responsibility to remove the tree.

E. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

20 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon: J. Arpin will be inspecting the *Phragmites australis* onsite tomorrow and taking GPS points. He sent the proposal that the homeowner solicited from All Habitat to our lake limnologist, GZA, for review and comment.

F. Task List

F. Hoisl highlighted some upcoming fall tasks: boat removal and fall cleanup at the beaches and ROWs, fall culvert cleaning, setting the dates for next year's board meetings, outdated sign removal from the bulletin boards. He and J. Arpin will remove the grate from the dam on Tuesday, October 24.

G. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Barbara Bennett-Scott, 20 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon: She reviewed a 10-step remediation plan to remove the *Phragmites australis* on her property. She will provide the board with details on any state and local permits required and introduce both her remediation contractor, All Habitat, and the wetlands biologist she has hired, to the board. Beginning in January 2024, and continuing with two procedures a year, All Habitat will cut the *Phragmites* down to 3', mulch the stems, and remove them from the lake area. They will spray the remaining stems with an herbicide, and return within 6 – 8 weeks to pull the sprayed weeds. She is considering contacting another company for a second opinion.

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon: She lives next to the property at 20 Deepwood and thanked L. Bowen for earlier clarifying her comments about the *Phragmites*. Since the last meeting, she actually measured the area and concludes that it has spread 25' on land.

Mark Anderson, 80 Ryan Terrace: He's lived here for 20 years, owns land with a dock in Lollipop cove, and says that sediment, not just weeds, is building up in that cove again, especially where the drainage easement enters the lake. He wanted to know if there was any movement on a plan to clean out the weeds and silt.

Karen Rustico, 253 Deepwood Dr, Hebron: 1. She questioned why the District can't multi-task and treat multiple weed issues at the same time that the milfoil is being treated. 2. She is willing to serve on the Weeds Committee but, citing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), would like reasonable accommodations to be made so that she can attend the meetings virtually.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl thanked J. Arpin and A. Fichtel and their spouses for their diligence in working to locate and identify the milfoil, as well as working with the limnologist and The Pond and Lake Connection to quickly arrange for treatment.

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

1. Regarding some of the residents' earlier comments, J. Caines pointed out that although the board might appear to be moving slowly, there are financial impacts to the decision-making process moving forward. 2. ALD Tax Collector E. Curtin has retired as the Andover Tax Collector, so her expenses associated with being a member of the CT Tax Collectors Association will now fall to the ALD. 3. J. Caines reported that he has received the 2021 rate book from QDS so he will be able to finalize our year-end financials this week. 4. The District had approximately \$4,800 in income and \$41,800 of expenses in September, and total year-to-date collections of approximately \$53,800 in Hebron, \$71,600 in Lebanon, and \$6,500 in back taxes, putting us at approximately 73% of budgeted income. 5. We are going into a quiet period and expenses won't jump again until May; however, an invoice for approximately \$7,000 is expected for the milfoil treatment, which will be applied to the Invasive Weeds Fund.

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

1. Long-term Financial Planning: K. Patterson reported that she has recruited five members from the ALD board of directors for the committee, but would still like representatives from the Amston Lake Association (ALA) and the Lake Health Committee to join. She would also like some resident participation. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 30, 6 – 8 p.m.
2. Lake Health: 1. J. Arpin reported that he and A. Fichtel supported The Pond and Lake Connection's milfoil treatment on the lake on October 12. They also searched completely around the lake but didn't find any additional milfoil. The summary report from Pond and Lake should arrive soon. GZA had also done a milfoil inspection, but as it was a windy day, visibility wasn't good, and they didn't find anything. 2. A plant survey is scheduled for 2024, but because of the milfoil GZA has been asked to reconsider using a grapple for this process. 3. There were five guests at the monthly committee meeting; the minutes are on the website. 4. Storm- and deep-water testing is over for the year. 5. Dissolved oxygen readings were at acceptable levels all season throughout the entire lake. 6. Secchi depth was 5.1 meters – at this time of year it is typically clearer than that, about 7m. 7. The lake is fully mixed, so there is no thermocline, meaning the water is the same temperature from the top to the bottom. 8. J. Arpin and A. Fichtel attended the site walk at 49 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon on October 17 held by the Lebanon Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC). It is a proposed new construction site with the potential to have a significant impact to wetlands and ALD property. A public hearing will be held on this application on November 6 at Lebanon Town Hall.
3. Weeds: F. Hoisl reported that 6 or 7 residents have expressed an interest in joining this

committee, whose purpose would be to identify and address residents' concerns, collect data, and to provide recommendations to the board based on the committee's findings. Motion to approve the formation of a Weeds Committee for the purpose of investigating complaints by our residents (F. Hoisl/B. Pelegano). Discussion ensued, and motion passed with five directors approving, three opposing. J. Caines reminded everyone that if there's a financial impact to any recommendation, even if adopted by the board, the District as a whole gets a chance to vote on the budget each year.

4. Dams: 1. F. Hoisl reported that we are in the process of adding all the files relating to the duck pond dam to the Google Drive. He will ask engineer K. Acimovic to visit the dam again in order to update his previous assessment. 2. In an effort to lower the level of the lake for the winter, one weir board was removed last month, another will be removed on Friday, and the grate will be removed next Tuesday.
5. Beaches and ROWs: 1. K. Patterson reported that the porta-potties were removed earlier than usual due to vandalism of the Main Beach location. We may incur charges for repairs to the unit. 2. There are concerns about some dead branches on a tree at Main Beach – and because of its proximity to the boat ramp, she would like the arborist to look at it. 3. Shoreline erosion was noted at both Oakland and Ryan Terrace ROWs – they are planning on installing silt fences for the winter, and J. Arpin will confirm whether or not the pipes installed in either of these locations are blocked. 4. The plunge pools at Oakland and Elsmere ROWs are the only ones left to be cleaned. 5. There are weeds that are encroaching on the south-facing beach area at Lollipop – F. Hoisl will add it to the list for the Weeds Committee. 6. The Beaches and ROWs fall cleanup will be Saturday, November 11, rain date November 18.
4. Beach Pass Checkers, Boats: 1. F. Hoisl reported that they will meet over the winter to discuss plans for next year. 2. A. Fichtel has repeatedly emailed some residents who rent slips at the ALD docks, reminding them to empty their boats of water, in order to help control the mosquito population. 3. He's frustrated by the number of ALD signs that he's found thrown in the bushes or the lake. 4. The yellow catamaran left at Main Beach will be removed at the owner's expense if it is not removed by November 1.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that Extreme Maintenance did some initial work last month on Ryan Terrace, Kelly's Corner and Manion Lane for a total of \$12,926; BASE did pothole repair to all the other un-milled roads for \$1600; and Reliable Paving worked to finish up Ryan, Manion and Kelly, and then came out a second time without adding to their initial quote. We will have roughly \$5000 left over if we spend the budgeted \$18,000 for snow removal and \$3,000 for sand. He'd like to order an additional load of processed stone to store at the trailer lot in order to do some final pothole repair before the winter. 2. He is a committee of one, and would love for a few residents that actually live on the Lebanon roads to help serve on this committee. 3. A. Fichtel will meet with B. Pelegano regarding the water dispersal plans (mentioned earlier under Lake Health) for the new home being proposed at 49 Ryan Terrace. F. Hoisl plans to attend the IWC meeting on November 6 to ensure that the builder has a satisfactory water runoff plan.
6. Communications: 1. L. Bowen reported that an email was sent to the District waterfront residents by another board member which had all the residents' personal email addresses visible – she asked that all future email blasts transmit through our system, which has privacy features in place. 2. She changed our web hosting plan, which will extend our commitment from four years to five, and the total five-year cost will cost less than the original four-year plan. The new platform should also make the website speedier to load.

K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

J. Greenfield will contact the arborist to get a quote to remove the diseased tree on Ryan Terrace, and will have him evaluate and recommend the best course of action for the tree near the boat ramp at Main Beach.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

There was nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (T. Nixon/B. Pelegano) passed unanimously at 9:12 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.