

Amston Lake District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
MINUTES
October 16th, 2013 7:00 p.m.
ALA Clubhouse, 16 Wood Acres Road, Amston, 06231
www.AmstonLake.org

- A. Roll Call of Officers and Directors
Present: D. O'Brien, R. DeCormier, L. Lenti, D. Moorcroft, M. Paul, S. Martin
Absent: D. Martin, S. Cormier, F. Hoisl

- B. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

- C. Recognition of Guests, Residents and Property Owners' Petitions

Bruce DeGray, representing the Amston Lake Volunteer Firemen

The Amston Lake Volunteer Firemen would like to erect a memorial on the property where the old firehouse stood; the memorial is stone, 8 ft tall, 3 inches thick and 16 to 18 inches wide. 2 ft will be buried in the ground; want to mount the old repainted firehouse siren, the #93 and a red emergency pull box from the building

The installation will be provided by the volunteer firemen and they would like to hold a dedication ceremony. The cost of the memorial will be partially funded by the Town of Hebron and the firemen hope the Amston Lake District will make a donation too.

Per D. O'Brien, he will get a map of the old firehouse property to identify where the memorial will be placed and the Board may have to hold a Special Meeting to get approval depending on the requested amount.

Lorraine Long, 15 Meadowbrook Road, Hebron

She wanted to point out that in the Bylaws, it states that the Treasurer and Tax Collector positions can be combined. She thinks we should change this and require a separate person serve each position. The Board agreed.

Janet Garrett, Lebanon

Discussed the Boats and Trailers sections of the ordinances; wanted to verify that trailers will not be stored on ROWs or the beach – they will not, we are in process of identifying an alternative

- D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Mark Paul made a motion to accept the minutes of September 18, 2013 as presented; Ray DeCormier seconded the motion. L. Lenti abstained. All others approved.
- E. Receive and Act Upon Clerk's Report
See attached
- F. Presentation of Correspondence and Communication
See attached
- G. Receive President's Report
D. O'Brien reported that the snow plowing contract was awarded to Pond View Farm and is based on the amount of snowfall and/or ice received. This should be more cost effective moving forward.

H. Receive Treasurer's Report

See attached

Note that D. O'Brien and R. DeCormier are working to combine the Main Beach and Old Firehouse properties to reduce Hebron taxes.

I. Receive Tax Collector's Report

See attached

QDS – shows that last year we collected \$205,000 and the budget was \$195,000; this is not showing correctly in the database; does not affect dollars so will leave it alone unless it becomes a problem

B. Swanson has reported that there are old back taxes due, payments received from the people who owe them were not properly applied to the oldest tax amounts due so the past due amounts are out there accumulating interest; the Board feels that the outstanding amounts are due. Lawyers are hired at closings to be sure all outstanding taxes are taken care of before the sale closes; if a resident's lawyer failed to do this, it is not our fault and the taxes are due. The law is behind us and supports this.

J. Receive Lake Management Reports/Review Goals & Objectives

S. Martin – Dr. Knocklein finally picked up our July thru October samples for water testing and we are awaiting the results

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

1. Security – R. DeCormier – no money being spent right now; will start up again when ice fishing begins
2. Dam – D. Moorcroft – will start lowering the lake on November 1, 2013 to be 10-12 inches lower for winter to minimize ice damage
3. Storm Drains – D. O'Brien – will write a letter of thanks to the Town of Hebron for all of their work on the installation and design of the vortechnic unit
4. Lebanon Sewer Project – S. Martin - people continue to hook up; 178 Deepwood Drive in Lebanon, on a steep slope on the water, installed a hot tub without permit from the Town of Lebanon – it is less than 22 feet from the edge of the lake and not connected to the sewer system; I attended the Lebanon Zoning Board of Appeals meeting and the Board voted that the hot tub would not be approved; I will continue to follow up with the Town of Lebanon as the Inland Wetlands Commission still has this on their agenda as well; another letter will be sent to state that the Amston Lake Board of Directors believes the hot tub must be removed or at minimum, connected to the sanitary sewer system which was installed to protect the quality of our lake water; this is wastewater and it must not enter our lake.
5. Drinking Water – S. Martin – CT Water is getting a large return of funds on income taxes due to infrastructure upgrades and they will share this windfall with customers by lowering the current water rates by 6.5% from April 2013 through October 2015; the water quality report came out in September and all measurements are within the acceptable ranges
6. Boats & Rafts – L. Lenti – Need 4 or 5 more racks to be installed but they are not needed until March and will be built at the location where needed so no moving will be required.
7. Weeds and Algae – M. Paul – ACT to start 2014 permit process ASAP; L. Hennebury sent an email requesting dredging the Southeast Cove due to plant growth; all agreed that dredging is to remove sediments, not plants. Needs more research. Remember, plants removed are replaced by some other plant – often, algae.

Mark Paul will get a map of Amston Lake so we can indicate areas for treatment to provide to ACT

8. Communications – R. DeCormier – all going well

9. Ordinances – M. Paul – Public Notices were placed in the newspaper and the Ordinances are in full effect as of October 30, 2013.

10. Lebanon Roads – D. O'Brien – snowplowing contract was awarded to Pond View Farm and is

based upon number of inches of accumulation and necessary sanding due to ice; hope this will be more fair to both vendor and us

11. ROW Updates and Maintenance – C. Lenti – discussed the bids received for the Elsmere ROW; Dave Moorcroft made a motion to accept the BSA bid for \$3600 dated October 1, 2013. Mark Paul seconded the motion and all approved unanimously. C. Lenti to communicate with BSA.
12. Calendar and Tasks – R. DeCormier – Barley straw was removed by Kevin Grady after Board decided to leave it in; D. O'Brien had stated at the previous meeting that if any residents complained, we would remove it. K. Grady removed it due to the complaints of neighbors.

Mark Paul made a motion to pay Kevin Grady \$45 for labor expended to remove some of the barley straw from the lake and to ask him to please get prior approval next time. D. Moorcroft seconded the motion. R. DeCormier abstained. All others approved.

Boat Removal email for November 1st to be sent via email and will reiterate that if the Board must remove a boat, it will be at the owner's expense. R. DeCormier to contact JD to get boats removed from docks and D.Martin will contact BSA to relocate docks for winter.

D. Moorcroft: Brush cutting behind dam; needs to be done 25 ft from main dam to tree line. Clean it out so maintenance is easier going forward. This is required by DEEP and has not been done properly yet. Need to get a vendor who will use chain saws and brush hogs to clean it out; we do not want to rip out plants and cause erosion by using a Bobcat or heavy machinery.

Mark Paul made a motion to spend up to \$5000 to cut the brush on the back of the dam to meet DEEP requirements. L. Lenti seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.

Start thinking of 2014/15 projects so that budget numbers can be put together.

- L. Act on Remaining Items of Agenda....Old Business
Nothing outstanding
- M. New Business.....Discussion and Possible Action
Nothing to add at this time
- N. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting
Add the identification of ACT treatment areas on map of Amston Lake
- O. Adjournment
Dave Moorcroft made a motion to adjourn. Mark Paul seconded the motion and all approved unanimously at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sherri-Ann Martin, Clerk
Amston Lake Tax District