

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Weed Committee Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2024 7:00 P.M.
Zoom

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: F. Hoisl, B. Pelegano, T. Angelucci, B. Lederer, J. Waleszczyk, D. Keith

Absent: J. Caines, K. Rustico

C. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Meeting minutes from January 15 and January 24 with the exception of the charter from Jan 15 (which we updated and will present as part of this meetings minutes) were accepted. Frank/Brandon

D. Review of Cove Weed Status

Comments:

Lollipop Cove Concerns: It was mentioned in the 2002 lake report that lollipop cove, southeast cove and the west side that a concern was the growth rate of weeds at an estimated rate of 1 ft/year as a major concern. Nothing has been done to address these concerns and now the dock in lollipop cove is completely hidden by plant growth making it inaccessible. 20 years later you can see how that prediction has become reality. Its estimated that you cant get a boat within 40 feet of the shoreline

It seems as if cove areas are best suited for weed accumulation given their protected location and the fact that leaves and lake debris tend to be blown into them causing "perfect" growing conditions.

How do we recover the navigable waters in the coves where access to the shoreline is no longer available.

DASH, Hydro-raking, and hand pulling have been suggested as low impact options to weed removal by lake limnologists, how do we investigate if those tools are suitable for our concerns?

This committee should raise additional questions to these limnologist reports we get very little to no feedback from residents on report findings.

Much discussion ensued about pros and cons of weed growth and location within the lake what we need to do is ask the experts and limit the layperson discussion during this committee meeting.

The committee is looking for second opinions on lake weed management from other lake associations in the area.

It's been discussed that 20% of weed coverage within a lake is acceptable.

Water lilies Attention might seem to be drawn by waterfront homeowners because they seem to suffer a larger impact to useability than others who may not use the coves as extensively.

Is there an option to practice these techniques in the duck pond to evaluate without impacting lake?

Is there a short-term solution to address the "summer season" needs and a long-term situation to address access to the shoreline.

Conclusion: No one wants to bring harm to the lake, but there are questions/concerns that have been raised by residents that could be addressed by getting second opinion and having discussions with other lake associations to see how similar issues were addressed in other lakes.

Next step: Create the questions, how to address navigability in coves and shorelines. What specifically can we do to address the weeds in Amston Lake without causing harm.

Contact the CT Federation of Lakes, Barbara has volunteered to contact. Get a list of its member organizations and see if they have additional information to share on similar issues.

E. Discussion of DEEP grant money

- a. Pushed to next meeting, can it be used to address our concerns? Can we leverage the education portion of the grant funds that could benefit the district. Please review the application before next meeting.

F. New Business

- a. Proposed charter update:
 - a.i. Provide recommendations to the Amston Lake Board of Directors on opportunities to improve lake usage and enjoyment by reducing negative impacts caused by aquatic plants within the district without harming the lake's overall health.

G. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

H. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned 8:25. Brandon/Barbara

Respectfully submitted by,
Frank Hoisl
Committee Chair

Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto