

**AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**  
Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes  
June 4, 2024 7:00 P.M.  
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, B. Pelegano, L. Bowen, J. Caines, J. Arpin, J. Greenfield, T. Nixon, K. Patterson.

**C. President's Discussion of Rules and Procedures**

F. Hoisl explained that the special board meeting was called in accordance with Article IV, Section 6 of the bylaws, and after discussions with the ALD's attorney, who approved of the proposed language of the ordinance change. He stressed that it was imperative to stick to the agenda, and that no other topics would be discussed. In the coming year, the board will be taking a global look at updating all of our ordinances. Once the ordinance is approved, it will become effective 30 days after being published in the newspaper.

**D. Consider and act upon motion to revise Amston Lake District ordinance 2008.8 – Boats (ordinances most recently revised June 12, 2021).**

F. Hoisl read the current ordinance, as well as the proposed change:

- Current ordinance:  
2008.8 – Boats (b): Boat passes are issued for a fiscal one-year period and are not transferable from one owner to another or from one boat to another.
- Proposed revision (*changes in italics*):  
2008.8 – Boats (b): Boat passes are issued for a fiscal one-year period and are not transferable from one *Amston Lake District property* owner to another or from one boat to another. *Boat passes will be refused or become automatically invalid for any of the following: (1) the applicant, or boat pass holder is neither an Amston Lake District property owner nor a resident of the District, or (2) the applicant or boat pass holder does not provide, at the request of the board, current DMV registration in their name, other proof of ownership such as a bill of sale, or other documentation satisfactory to the Board in its sole discretion.*

Motion to accept the proposed ordinance change, amended by putting a period after the word "sale" and deleting "or other documentation satisfactory to the board in its sole discretion" (B. Pelegano/J. Greenfield).

J. Arpin had some issues with the language in the proposed ordinance: 1. We don't keep track of which sticker goes with which boat. 2. We need to define what a resident of the District is. 3. Should add that inspectors, as well as the board, may ask for proof of ownership. 4. Wants it to be current DMV vessel registration. 5. Would like the word "title" added to the last sentence.

Bob Blackmore, 5 Rondaly Rd, Hebron. Stated that the DEEP will put a serial number on a boat if bought at auction. He said that by eliminating the last 11 words of the proposed ordinance, it answered many people's concerns.

Barbara Lederer, 458 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon. **Q:** Would like clarification that you have to be either an Amston Lake property owner, or provide certification that you own the boat? **A:** Reading the entire sentence, it says that passes will become automatically invalid if you are not an ALD property owner or do

not provide proof of boat ownership.

Laurel Hennebury, 458 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon. **Q:** Is there a boat size limit that we're talking about? Do kayaks need to be registered? **A:** Only boats that are launched at the Main Beach boat launch. The state of Connecticut requires any boat with a motor, or any sailboat over 19.5 feet to be registered.

Donna Ciarfella, 113 Deepwood Dr, Hebron. 1. Thinks there needs to be some stronger language excluding non-residents to maintain consistency with some of our other ordinances. 2. She believes that vessel registration should be the only proof of ownership accepted, as the state will have already gone through the ownership verification process. She pointed out that the state will also allow non-motorized boats to be registered. 3. She would like to add "or authorized designee" after "at the request of the board."

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr, Hebron. 1. A lot of his concerns have been addressed but the phrase "sole discretion of the board" concerns him and wants it eliminated. 2. He believes registration should be the only acceptable proof of ownership for trailered and powered boats that come through the boat launch.

Janice Grady, 199 Deepwood Dr, Hebron. The language about sole discretion of the board is ambiguous, and believes the documentation required should be absolute and that the ordinance should stand on its own.

Duncan Keith, 25 Island Beach Rd, Lebanon. There seems to be two parts of the proposed ordinance – the first part is who is entitled to put a boat in the lake, and the second is proving that you're allowed to put a boat in the lake. Shouldn't the second part be a component of the boat registration process?

Regarding requiring boat registration as the only acceptable proof of ownership, board President F. Hoisl asked everyone to consider other types of boats and scenarios – i.e., sail boats that might need to be trailered in, but don't need to be registered, or owners with other types of boats that aren't required to be registered with the state but that we will now require to be registered.

Rich Mackowski, 6 Deepwood Dr, Hebron. **Q:** How do you propose to handle all the renters that bring boats in? **A:** It's the landlord's responsibility to ensure that their tenants follow the rules. We all agree that it's an issue as we get more and more renters. Perhaps next year we consider a specific sticker for rental properties' boats.

Dave Arnold, 34 Ames Rd, Hebron. **Q:** Is there any law that says you can't use a boat on the lake that you don't personally own – say your child owns it and they live in another town? **A:** Not currently.

At this point, discussion ensued among the board members, followed by a motion (B. Pelegano/ J. Greenfield) to adopt the original proposed ordinance as amended below:

2008.8 – Boats (b): Boat passes are issued for a fiscal one-year period and are not transferable from one Amston Lake District (ALD) property owner to another nor from one boat to another. Boat passes will be refused or become automatically invalid for any of the following: (1) the applicant or boat pass holder is neither an Amston Lake District property owner nor a resident of the District, or (2) the applicant or boat pass holder does not provide, at the request of the board or authorized designee, current Department of Motor Vehicle registration or title in their name.

A vote on the motion was taken among the board members and unanimously approved. The ordinance will go into effect 30 days after publication in the newspaper, on or about July 6, 2024.

## **E. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (B. Pelegano/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.