

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2024 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 7:06 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: B. Pelegano, L. Bowen, J. Caines, J. Arpin, J. Greenfield, T. Nixon, K. Patterson, K. Rustico. Absent: F. Hoisl.

C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Joyce Clark, 6 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon: She reported that a large tree had fallen into the lake somewhere between 56 and 58 Ames Road, Hebron, and wondered whose responsibility it was to remove it.

Mark Anderson, 80 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon: He owns waterfront land on the north side of Lollipop Cove, where he has a dock and a boat. He reported that over the years it's gotten more and more difficult to get his boat in and out and wants to know if anything is going to be done about the weeds and water depth in that cove. B. Pelegano stated that the Weeds Committee is looking to have the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) give recommendations next year about what can be done about the encroachment of weeds into the coves. He encouraged Mr. Anderson to join the Weeds Committee.

Tony DeCarmine, 439 Deepwood Dr, Lebanon: He removed several trees on what he believes to be ALD property adjacent to his own at the corner of Louise Road. He is not looking for monetary relief but rather a letter from the District to the town agreeing to a 10' setback to erect a garage. B. Pelegano stated that when the board receives a copy of his property survey, we will do a site visit and then make a determination.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2024 regular board meeting with item J5 corrected to state that it was J. Greenfield that read the Lebanon Roads report, not J. Arpin (J. Greenfield/K. Patterson), unanimously approved.

E. Presentation of Correspondence

B. Pelegano: Resident concerned about work done on Ledge Road, which she believes created potholes.

K. Patterson: Email from a resident who wants to donate a bench on Main Beach. **J. Arpin:** Resident at 30 Deepwood believed they had some toxic plant growth in their cove. J. Arpin inspected the area and none of the plants were identified as toxic. The residents were concerned about plant growth in the area and will consider hand-pulling or benthic barriers as a control method, and will contact the Lake Health Committee before proceeding.

F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. 125 Deepwood, Hebron Variance Request: The resident notified the board prior to the meeting that they planned on moving their shed away from the ALD ROW property line so they would no longer be seeking a variance.
2. Ordinance Update Project: Board members B. Pelegano and K. Patterson are making progress on updating the ordinances, which will be available for review by the board in a few months.

G. Task List

B. Pelegano went over the task list. K. Patterson stated that the porta-potties would be removed when the current billing cycle ends, on September 16, as we seem to have more problems with them after the summer season is over. The mowing/leaf removal contract and the snow removal contract have both been finalized.

H. Receive President's Report

Vice President B. Pelegano reminded the committee chairs that the other board members have already read their meeting minutes and reports online, so to try to keep their comments to only the highlights, or anything that needs discussion, of their committee activities.

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

J. Caines reported that the District collected approximately \$127,400 in July, including \$49,100 in Hebron current taxes, \$77,300 Lebanon taxes, \$500 in back taxes, \$100 in liens, and \$300 in interest. Administrative expenses for the month were \$48,900, including all District taxes paid to the towns of Hebron and Lebanon, records storage, the tax bill processing and maintenance fees for the QDS system, and liability insurance. Expenses also included \$9,600 for lake health, and \$4,700 for repairs and maintenance at the beaches and ROWs. Other lake expenses totaled \$6,300, including Beach Pass Checkers and gate monitoring. Net expense for July in the General Fund was \$69,500, which leaves the District with a net inflow for the month/year-to-date of \$57,900, which is in line with prior years. The only other expense was \$500 for Lebanon roads.

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

1. Long-Term Financial Planning: Chair K. Patterson reported that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Thursday, August 22.
2. Lake Health: 1. K. Patterson stated that a few residents had asked about hand-pulling weeds around their boat slip at Lollipop, and she told them to contact the committee so that the area can be inspected for invasives before it's disturbed. 2. Chair J. Arpin reported that cyanobacteria was seen at the lake last month, but it disappeared within a day or two. It was suggested that next year the ALD send an email blast in late June to remind residents to be on the lookout. 3. Water test results have been very good, and he also suggested sending an eblast midway through the season next summer to update residents. 4. Secchi depth results (for clarity) were 5.3 meters, which is very good. 5. A resident removed their benthic mat on August 11, using a local contractor, and they were pleased with the results of both the benthic mat and the contractor.
3. Weeds: B. Pelegano read F. Hoisl's report: The most recent committee meeting minutes have not yet been completed. The committee will be asking the CAES to spend additional time in the lake's coves and to make recommendations on what the District can do to stop encroachment of certain weeds into the water – it will need to be approved in order to be added to next year's budget.
4. Dams: F. Hoisl was not at the meeting but sent an email stating that there was nothing new to report.
5. Beaches and ROWs: T. Nixon reported that the geese issue at Oakland has gotten better, maintenance at Lollipop Beach will be done next week, a prioritization list for plunge pool cleaning is being developed, and there is a 14' boat partially blocking lake access at Francis ROW.
4. Boats/Beach Pass Checkers: F. Hoisl was not at the meeting but sent an email stating that there was nothing new to report.

5. Lebanon Roads: 1. B. Pelegano reported that the committee hasn't met recently due to scheduling issues. 2. Some additional work has been completed on Kelly's Corner, to correct an issue of water flowing into a resident's driveway and ultimately into their garage; a length of pipe was added so that the water now flows into the woods. 3. The ALD contractor re-pitched an area of Ledge Road and added larger processed stone in response to a resident's report that her house was being flooded due to water from a pipe. 4. The ALD contractor subsequently repaired potholes on Ledge Road that a resident believed were created by the aforementioned repair work. 5. The committee will discuss the quote they received to eliminate washout that occurs from heavy rains at the corner of Deepwood and Beech.
6. Communications: L. Bowen will be sending out some end-of-season email blasts, including one with a reminder about the new boat ownership ordinance, and looking for additional boat inspectors.

K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

There was nothing to discuss at this time, but B. Pelegano will bring the following concerns to the attention of President F. Hoisl after the meeting:

1. The fallen tree on Ames Road
2. The Lollipop Cove weeds and water depth
3. The request for a "setback" letter for the Louise Road property

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

There was nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (J. Arpin/ J. Greenfield) passed unanimously at 7:47 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.