

## **AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

September 18, 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 7:10 p.m.

### **B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors**

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

### **C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners**

None of the guests in attendance asked to be recognized.

### **D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2024 regular board meeting (K. Patterson/T. Nixon), unanimously approved.

### **E. Presentation of Correspondence**

**L. Bowen:** 1. Resident responded to mosquito email blast with photos of a few boats full of water at Elsmere ROW. 2. Resident concerned about speeding in the District and hoping the topic comes up at some point for discussion. 3. Resident requesting an email blast be sent by the ALD seeking volunteers to serve on the Lebanon Water Pollution Control Authority – the email has been sent. Board member J. Caines will be applying to serve on the WPCA. **K. Patterson:** 1. Resident asked if they would be allowed to post a sign on the ALD property at the corner of Hillcrest and Deepwood, advertising their employer's commercial countertop and tile business. Motion to allow signs to be placed at the corner of Hillcrest and Deepwood, five directors opposed, two abstained, and the motion was denied. **F. Hoisl** will contact the owners of the signs that are currently there and ask them to remove them. 2. Resident reported large, commercial vehicles blocking the stop sign at the corner of Bangor and Hillcrest in Hebron, as well as being parked on residential property. The resident will be encouraged to contact the town again regarding the public road issue, and the board will consider the resident's suggestion of creating an ordinance regarding parking on residential property. **F. Hoisl:** Resident at corner of Catherine and W. Island Beach Roads in Lebanon was concerned about a tree that was dropping branches in the road, but it appears that the tree belongs to the homeowner.

### **F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action**

1. 439 Deepwood, Lebanon – Setback Letter Request: F. Hoisl stated that while the Amston Lake District doesn't have its own zoning guidelines, we generally follow the zoning regulations of the towns where the property is located. The resident had requested that the ALD allow a 10' building setback; however, the Town of Lebanon requires a 25' setback, so the request will be denied. F. Hoisl will follow up with the resident.
2. Ames Road Tree in Lake: Last month a resident informed the board that a large tree had fallen into the lake. Since the tree in question is in a wooded area that appears to be on the line between two properties, F. Hoisl will contact both homeowners to bring the fallen tree to their attention.

### **G. Task List**

F. Hoisl went over the task list, highlighting the end-of-season cleanup, the annual financial reports to the towns by the end of September, cleaning plunge pools, removing weir boards, and boat and dock removal.

### **H. Receive President's Report**

President F. Hoisl asked that, although it seems early, to start considering their budgets for next year.

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

J. Caines reported that the District collected approximately \$21,000 in August, including approximately \$11,000 from current month Hebron taxes, \$9,000 from current month Lebanon, and \$300 in other income. Expenses for the month included \$2,200 in administrative, \$1,200 for lake health, \$1,500 for repairs and maintenance, and \$8,400 for other (mostly Beach Pass Checkers). Total lake operations expenses for the month were \$11,100. The ALD also spent \$2,300 for road repairs on Kelly's Corner and Ledge Road in Lebanon. Net income for the month was \$5,700. The ALD has collected more than 60% of each town's expected tax revenue, which is on point with previous years. Year-to-date collections are \$148,700, including \$60,900 from Hebron, \$86,300 from Lebanon, \$800 in back taxes and liens, and \$700 in interest. Year-to-date expenses include \$51,100 in administrative, \$10,800 for lake health, \$6,200 for repairs & maintenance, \$14,800 for other, and \$2,800 for roads, for a current year-to-date net income of \$63,000. K. Patterson suggested that we consider paying the town tax bills in two installments so that we could keep the funds in the bank earning interest.

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

F. Hoisl reminded everyone in attendance that detailed meeting minutes for the committees have been posted to the website.

1. Long-Term Financial Planning: Chair K. Patterson had nothing new to report in terms of recommendations as they are waiting for the fiscal year-end numbers to be finalized. They will be meeting again in December, and K. Patterson asked the other directors to bring any long-term recommendations/projects for consideration to the committee by November 30. 2. K. Rustico would like some help with looking into matching grant money from DEEP, specifically for aeration in the lake's coves. She stated that aeration would stunt the growth of lily pads, which do not like moving water, and which would also target the mosquito population without using chemicals.
2. Lake Health: 1. Chair J. Arpin reported the most recent Secchi depth results (for clarity) were 7.18 meters, which is very good. 2. The August report from our lake limnologist, GZA, is on the website. It discussed a high spike of cyanobacteria on some of the shorelines in July. 3. Final deepwater testing will take place in October and the mini-dots (which test dissolved oxygen every hour at three levels) will be removed. 4. A few of the committee members are working with other lakes to discuss what the ALD is doing to inspect boats and keep invasives out of the lake. 5. There have been no milfoil sightings this year, but the committee will be meeting with Pond & Lake Connection to begin the process for the next 3-year DEEP permit. 6. Freshwater jellyfish were spotted by a resident near the western shore of the northeast cove. GZA is seeing them at other lakes as well, and was not concerned.
3. Weeds: Chair F. Hoisl reported that the minutes from the previous meeting will be posted and the committee will be meeting again soon. 2. The committee is considering changing the name of the committee to Lake Usage, as "weeds" might be too specific. 3. Lake Health Chair J. Arpin asked that his committee be included in any discussions with the DEEP and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.
4. Dams: F. Hoisl stated that there was nothing new to report.
5. Beaches and ROWs: T. Nixon reported that the porta-potties will be removed this week and the fall cleanup date will be decided on soon. The shed adjacent to Elsmere ROW has not yet been moved, contrary to the letter the ALD received. F. Hoisl will contact the homeowner.

4. Boats/Beach Pass Checkers: 1. F. Hoisl will consider whether they want to extend the days/hours for the Beach Pass Checkers next year. 2. Many of the issues they encountered had to do with renters so landlords will have to make a better effort to make their tenants aware of the rules. 3. K. Patterson reported that there are a few boats on the public racks that have received the red "Warning" stickers. They will be pulled by the District if the owners do not remove them soon.
5. Lebanon Roads: 1. Committee member J. Caines reported that some repair work will be taking place soon on Beech and Island Beach Roads by our regular contractor. The committee discussed adding millings on Beech Road, but felt the price was too high to seriously consider so processed stone will be added and the road will be crowned. 2. A resident offered the use of some huge boulders from her property to stem gushing water from extreme rainfalls on Catherine/W. Woodland Streets in Lebanon. T. Nixon will contact committee chair B. Pelegano so that he can take a look.
6. Communications: L. Bowen reported that email blasts will be sent to remind people of the October 15 (for boats at the ALD docks) and October 31 (for all other boats on ALD property) deadlines for boat removal.

**K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action**

There was no new business to be discussed at this time.

**L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting**

There was nothing to add at this time.

**M. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (L. Bowen/K. Rustico) passed unanimously at 8:21 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.