

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 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 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: F. Hoisl, L. Bowen, J. Caines, J. Arpin, J. Greenfield, K. Patterson, K. Rustico.

Absent: B. Pelegano, T. Nixon.

C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Jody Stubbings, 15 Cove Rd, Lebanon: There are no speed limit signs on the Lebanon private roads and speeding cars and trucks are not only dangerous, they are damaging the roads. This fall, the Lebanon police set up a speed trap and gave several people written warnings. She sent a reasonably priced proposal for signs and installation to the board a few months ago and wonders why it hasn't been acted on. F. Hoisl will talk to the Roads Committee chair, B. Pelegano to see where this proposal stands.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2024 regular board meeting (K. Patterson/J. Arpin) unanimously approved.

E. Presentation of Correspondence

F. Hoisl: Email from Dr. Jason Seacat, a professor at Western New England University and a lake homeowner in Connecticut. He is collecting data on lake residents' knowledge about invasive aquatic plants via an anonymous online survey. He has already collected data from two other nearby lakes and would like to include Amston Lake residents in his study. Discussion ensued among the board and it was generally agreed that the District would be amenable to providing the survey link to ALD residents, although the board would like to view the survey ahead of time. The District will not allow our email list to be shared, so the District will put a link to the survey on our website, as well as send an email blast explaining the project and including a link to the survey. F. Hoisl will contact Dr. Seacat to view the survey ahead of time.

F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. DEEP Grant Application: F. Hoisl thanked everyone, particularly K. Rustico, K. Patterson, and J. Caines for their work on the grant application that was due earlier than expected, on December 6. The grant was to focus on communication and resident education, and the potential spend could have been as much as \$12,500, with \$2,500 being the ALD's responsibility. Ultimately, the District was unable to put forward a reasonable communication plan for the state's portion of the funds. Checking the DEEP website for next year's grant parameters will be added to the task list for October, 2025.
2. Ordinance Updates: K. Patterson reported that she and B. Pelegano have almost completed the initial work on the updates and will send a copy to board members for review and comment prior to the January board meeting. Their hope is to have a document approved by the board at the February meeting, so that it can be sent to the residents to review, with the possibility of a special meeting to respond to resident questions, prior to the annual meeting.
3. Lollipop Docks: A resident recently proposed adding an extension to one of the docks at Lollipop, so that larger boats could dock there, and not have to maneuver out and around other large boats and weeds. F. Hoisl stated that the docks themselves are very expensive, and the District can do more to clear the weeds in the area, via hand-pulling or benthic mats. J. Arpin will price out some benthic mats for the area, and F. Hoisl will check his files for the most recent pricing on reconfiguring the docks. K.

Patterson reminded everyone that the board recently approved applying dock rental fees directly to a fund for dock repairs and maintenance, so there will be money in that fund beginning next spring.

G. Task List

F. Hoisl went over the task list, highlighting upcoming tasks, including having each board member begin looking at their budgets for next year, with the hope of keeping the budget flat. K. Patterson commented that due to the increased frequency of heavy storms, the plunge pools in general need cleaning more often, and that at Oakland ROW, it's becoming apparent a third pool is necessary. F. Hoisl will also look at the Dam Emergency Action Plan to see if there are any requirements for 2025.

H. Receive President's Report

President F. Hoisl ceded his time to the treasurer.

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

1. J. Caines stated that the ALD Tax Collector reported that the ALD has now collected the back taxes owed by the Town of Hebron on the property at 282 Deepwood and they are reflected in the November financials. 2. Treasurer J. Caines reported that in November the District collected approximately \$2,900 in Hebron current taxes; \$3,100 in Lebanon current taxes; \$2,600 in back taxes, liens, and fees; and \$300 of other income. Expenses for the month included \$1,400 in administrative, \$200 for lake health, and \$700 for other lake expenses. The total net income for the month of November in the General Fund was \$6,600. There was no activity in the Roads Fund. Year-to-date collections were \$66,800 in Hebron current taxes; \$71,600 in Lebanon taxes; \$4,000 in back taxes, liens, and interest; other income \$1,700. Expenses year to date include \$56,600 in administrative, \$14,800 for lake health, \$9,000 for repairs and maintenance, and \$22,100 for other lake expenses. The net inflow year to date is \$41,600 to the General Fund. The District spent \$8,200 on Lebanon road repairs year to date, for a year-to-date inflow in that fund of \$11,800.

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

1. Long-Term Financial Planning: 1. The committee hasn't met recently but will likely meet in January. She asked the other directors to contact her if they had any items to add to her agenda for discussion. 2. F. Hoisl met with a contractor and is waiting for their estimate for options to repair or dismantle the "bridge" that goes over the Duck Pond dam.
2. Lake Health: 1. Chair J. Arpin reported that the Pond & Lake Connection has put the permit request together for DEEP, in case the District needs to treat the lake again in the next three years. 2. The ALD is expecting two reports from GZA in January – the results of the most recent plant survey and their annual lake health report.
3. Weeds: Chair F. Hoisl stated that the committee met in early December. Much of their discussion centered on the name/focus of the committee, which is really lake usage, and how to accommodate residents whose lake usage is impeded in the coves and around the ALD docks. He's hoping to discuss the topic with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), and then the committee will make some recommendations to the board. J. Arpin requested that the committee possibly update their mission statement, involve the Lake Health Committee in their plans, ensure that the lake maintains a diverse plant population without inviting invasives as a result of any changes, and to present any prospective plans to our limnologist, GZA.
4. Dams: Chair F. Hoisl stated that other than what was mentioned under item J.1.2, there was nothing new to report.
5. Beaches and ROWs: 1. Co-chair K. Patterson reported that it was time to order lake passes for next

season. 2. In light of the new boat ordinance, she proposed having boat owners that use the Main Beach boat launch provide title and registration prior to issuance of a special sticker, signifying such status. The rest of the board agreed this was acceptable. 3. Discussion ensued about going back to having lake pass tags with pins. K. Patterson explained that the current tags were meant to simply attach to a keychain, and by adding a pin, the cost of mailing (which many residents opt for) substantially increases.

6. Boats/Beach Pass Checkers: Chair F. Hoisl stated that there was nothing new to report.
7. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano was not at the meeting but sent an email stating there was nothing new to report.
8. Communications: 1. L. Bowen stated that the approved 2025 schedule of monthly board meetings, as well as the date for the annual District meeting, would be posted to the website by the end of the week. 2. She requested that the other board members take pictures whenever they are involved in a District event or work/maintenance being done on ALD property, to be used for email blasts or the newsletter.

K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Lebanon PZC Regulation Review Subcommittee: F. Hoisl reported that a resident from Red Cedar Lake in Lebanon is requesting changes to what she feels are unreasonable and outdated zoning restrictions placed on the residents of the three town lake districts. The minutes of the newly formed Planning and Zoning Commission Regulation Review Committee are on the Lebanon town website, and another meeting is planned for January 12, before the next Planning and Zoning meeting. F. Hoisl will try to attend and asked the other directors to submit any questions or comments to him before the meeting.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

There was nothing to add at this time.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (J. Arpin/K. Rustico) passed unanimously at 8:45 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.