

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025 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 7:01 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

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

F. Hoisl asked that the board add an Executive Session to the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussing a contractor quote that he received for repairs to the Duck Pond dam.

C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Nobody in attendance asked to be recognized.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2025 regular board meeting (K. Patterson/J. Arpin) passed without objection.

E. Presentation of Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. Lollipop Docks: J. Caines stated that a plan from a few years ago was to add a few sections to the docks, which would make 8 – 10 twenty-foot spaces available, which is only adding one space, but all slips would be able to accommodate larger boats. He does not have current pricing. It has been several years since the dock rental prices have had an increase, so beginning in 2026, he is proposing a 20% increase in the fees charged for slip rentals, charging smaller boats \$250, and larger boats \$300. Discussion ensued, and K. Patterson suggested that we continue to discuss this at the next monthly meeting, as we will have data from dockmaster D. Arnold after the April 26 dock lottery. One of the budgets that J. Caines will be proposing later in the meeting includes money for a dock expansion.
2. Ordinance Updates: K. Patterson reported that after the special board meeting on April 12, she and B. Pelegano came up with a list of items to be discussed regarding the ordinances. After discussion, it was decided:
 - Ordinance 2008.6(a) bullet 3: horsepower limit for all boats will be 9.9.
 - 2008.8(e): removed “or trailer” and edited 2008.8(n) to add requirement that trailers be clean. Also removed *requirement* to move trailer to Berglund property after launching, since this was added to boat inspector instructions. 2008.6 prohibits storage of trailers or leaving them unattended on ALD property without BOD approval.
 - 2008.10(b)(4): removed the words “typically used” for swimming and replaced with “already being used” for swimming.
 - 2008.11(b): motorized vehicles, including remote control (RC) toys and other devices, including drones, are banned from ALD property (not ALD waters) without BOD approval. This includes operating a drone while standing on ALD property, but not from private property.
 - 2008.1(h): RC boats are included in the definition of watercraft, which makes them subject to all watercraft restrictions, including the 5 mph speed limit and limited wake.

K. Patterson and B. Pelegano will revise the ordinances with these final changes and they will be available on the website prior to the annual meeting.

G. Task List

F. Hoisl went over the task list, highlighting upcoming tasks, including spraying for poison ivy on the beaches and ROWs, budget preparation, planning for the annual meeting, and preparing the newsletter.

H. Receive President's Report

F. Hoisl ceded his time in light of the full agenda and budget discussion ahead.

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

1. J. Caines stated that the tax collector reported robust collections in March, and that the District's attorney had collected some long overdue taxes as a result of a property sale. 2. Treasurer J. Caines went over the monthly and year-to-date financials, which are updated each month on the website. The District has had an overall net inflow of \$70,400 year to date. 3. J. Caines presented three proposed budgets for 2025-26. The first budget was a compilation of each director's submitted budgets; the second added in \$2000 to survey Elsmere ROW, an \$8000 cost share for a new ALA clubhouse roof, and a decrease in the Lebanon roads budget from \$45K to \$40K; and the third takes all of the second proposed budget into account and adds \$10,000 for a dock expansion at Lollipop. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of each proposed budget. The year-over-year increase in Hebron taxes would range from 8.2 – 16.2%, depending on which budget was approved, with the Lebanon taxes being slightly higher, due to the roads. The lake health budget was a topic of discussion. There is a plan to do sediment testing, update the dissolved oxygen equipment, and purchase and install benthic mats in the area of the Lollipop docks. It was suggested that weekly testing for bacteria at the two beaches only take place at one site per beach, rather than the current practice of two sites. Several other cost-cutting measures throughout the entire budget were suggested and discussed. J. Greenfield reminded everyone that there will also be a significant tree removal project in the area of the dam that has not yet been accounted for in the upcoming budget. The contribution to the roof project at the clubhouse was briefly discussed and will be included in the budget. J. Caines will revise the proposed budget, taking all the suggestions into account, and email it to the directors for discussion and approval at the May regular board meeting.

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

Board President F. Hoisl suggested that because of the late hour, and with many of the committee meeting minutes being posted on the website, the board forego committee reports. Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a vendor contract, (B. Pelegano/K. Patterson), unanimously approved at 9:30 p.m.

The board came out of Executive Session at 10:00, with no action taken.

K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. There was no new business to discuss.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Keep budget discussion on the agenda for May.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (K. Rustico/J. Greenfield) passed unanimously at 10:01 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.