

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2025 10:00 A.M.
Remote Meeting Via Zoom
www.amstonlake.org

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.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, K. Rustico.

C. President's Discussion of Meeting Purpose and Procedures Regarding Proposed Ordinance Updates

F. Hoisl explained that the District ordinances had not been updated in about 12 years and he had asked a subcommittee of B. Pelegano and K. Patterson to review them, with input from residents and the rest of the board members. Today's special meeting was called for the purpose to get further comments and feedback from residents on the proposed updated ordinances, which have been available to review for the past several weeks on the website.

Vice President B. Pelegano said that the ordinances have been reduced from 8 pages to 6, although the goal was not to simply reduce the number of pages – it was more to consolidate and clarify what was in place already. There are no drastic changes, but there are subtle ones. He then summarized the comments and questions that were received via email, and pointed to where in the new document the particular item had been addressed.

Board member K. Patterson clarified that the point of today's meeting was not to focus on wordsmithing but to get feedback and general comments from the residents to see if there was anything that needed changing.

D. Recognition of Guests, Residents and Property Owners

John Daviau, 23 Sunset Drive, Lebanon. He is not in favor of the 5 mph speed limit for remote-control (RC) boats in the lake, as that would make the toys unappealing to his grandson. He lives in a cove and doesn't see the problem with using it there. The board had received a complaint about RC boats last summer. It was pointed out that these toys could be dangerous, and the noise could be bothersome to others. Mr. Daviau will talk to his neighbor to see if the issue can be resolved.

Donna Ciarfella, 113 Deepwood Dr, Hebron. She is requesting that the board either restrict or prohibit RC boats on the lake. She stated that larger hobby and racing grade boats can reach 60-70 mph, and small toy boats can reach speeds of 15-20 mph. She says at these speeds they can be difficult to control, especially by a casual user. We have a small lake, used for swimming, fishing, and boating, and these boats could be dangerous or disruptive. She would like the larger boats prohibited altogether, but said that having a certain area or time that the smaller boats be allowed to operate could be considered.

Board member B Pelegano pointed out that in the new ordinances, RC boats are classified as "watercraft" and subject to all the restrictions that boats are.

Al Fichtel, 203 Deepwood Dr, Hebron. 1. He expressed concern about the updated ordinance that prohibits fishing from areas "typically used" for swimming, which would preclude someone from fishing at the ROWs. B. Pelegano stated that after hearing comments from other residents, the wording in that ordinance (2008.10.b) has been amended so that fishing would be prohibited from areas "already being

used” for swimming, thereby allowing fishing unless someone was already using the area to swim. A sentence was added that fishing must be done with caution, and that leaving any type of fishing material behind is prohibited, as that leads to injuries and is a common complaint among residents that use the beaches and ROW for swimming. 2. He is concerned about the boat thrust and motor sizing ordinance. The ordinances already have speed and wake limits, so he recommends a maximum 9.9 hp motor, that he states is the limit on many lakes in Connecticut. J. Arpin says the current ordinance states a maximum of 3 hp – and he would like to double that to 6 hp in order for larger boats to be able to be controlled in windy weather. He’s concerned that 9.9 hp would allow a smaller boat to easily go over 20 mph. This topic will be further discussed at the April regular board meeting. 3. As a boat inspector, A. Fichtel inspected a boat recently that had the new striped sticker, but did not have a Connecticut registration. Are the inspectors to assume that because the boat owner has been issued the striped sticker, the board has verified the owner’s documentation? K. Patterson answered that yes, that is the case – owners have to provide title or registration, and this particular owner had provided the title. 4. He understands that there is a new fine of \$500 for trespassers and wonders how that will be enforced. B. Pelegano stated that they will be reported to the police and if they are arrested, the District can take them to court to enforce the fine. Signs about the trespassing fine will be posted at the beaches as a further deterrent.

F. Hoisl thanked everyone for their input. The proposed ordinances will be discussed again at the April regular board meeting.

E. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (B. Pelegano/J. Greenfield) passed unanimously at 10:58 a.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.