

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2026 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: B. Pelegano, K. Patterson, L. Bowen, J. Caines, J. Greenfield, J. Arpin, T. Nixon, C. Rockoff., K. Rustico.

C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

No attendees asked to be recognized.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2026 regular board meeting (K. Patterson/J. Arpin), approved without objection.

E. Presentation of Correspondence

B. Pelegano: Received a letter from Lebanon Town Planner Phil Chester, saying that the town is looking for an assistant manager for the Saturday morning farmer's market this summer.

F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

1. ROW Surveys: B. Pelegano stated that this item will be discussed at the end of the meeting in Executive Session.
2. New Procedures for Dock De-Icers/Bubblers: B. Pelegano reported that the ALD attorney had said that if the District does allow these devices, it would be a good idea for property owners to post "danger, thin ice" signs. J. Arpin explained that a bubbler is mainly for a small goldfish pond on someone's property, while an agitator would be used for someone's dock. B. Pelegano stated that the District should be careful about setting parameters for use of an agitator to avoid liability. He will work with J. Arpin over the summer to formulate a procedure for homeowners requesting to install one of these devices and will then consult with the ALD attorney to limit the District's exposure.

G. Task List and Action Items

B. Pelegano went over the task list, including: committee budgets should be sent to B. Pelegano and J. Caines by the end of February, procedures for Beach Pass Checkers, confirming the gate opener/closer, and discussing content for the newsletter.

H. Receive President's Report

B. Pelegano ceded his time.

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

1. Treasurer J. Caines read from the Tax Collector's report that lien notices will be going out soon, and that the Tax Collector will be attending a continuing education class. 2. J. Caines went over the January financials as well as the fiscal year-to-date numbers, which are posted on the website.

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

1. Long-Term Financial Planning: Chair K. Patterson had nothing new to report.

2. Lake Health: 1. Chair J. Arpin reported that the CT Federation of Lakes had an excellent webinar about Hydrilla at Twin Lakes, and the link to the video is in the most recent committee meeting minutes on the website. 2. J. Arpin submitted testimony on behalf of the Amston Lake District Board of Directors to support Connecticut senate bill 145 for hydrilla remediation and expedited permits. The District experienced how slow the permit process was when milfoil was first discovered at the lake a few years ago. 3. The shoreline walls that were requested to be rebuilt last year have been completed. 4. J. Arpin finished his review of past President F. Hoisl's files, and scanned and saved quite a few files to the District google drive.
3. Lake Usage: B. Pelegano reported that the committee met last week. Chair F. Hoisl will be requesting a budget for benthic barriers, as well as possible different types of testing. He will reach out to Lake Health Chair J. Arpin to discuss coordinating their efforts.
4. Dams: 1. Chair K. Patterson reported that the final DEEP-approved Emergency Action Plan (EAP) has been posted to the website. 2. She will be getting quotes for a dam inspection later this year so that it can be added to the budget. 3. Their first quarterly inspection with the entire committee has been postponed to March, due to the weather and snow and ice pack making visibility problematic. 4. Nine residents have expressed interest so far in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. As the town requires a minimum class of 10 people, she will wait until we get a few more people to work on scheduling the training.
5. Docks: 1. Chair J. Caines reported that the committee met last night, will meet again in early March, and are planning on presenting a proposal to the board at the March BOD meeting. In response to a question that L. Bowen received from a resident, J. Caines stated that meeting minutes from the committee's three meetings will be sent to her soon for posting to the website. 2. T. Nixon reported that they have received five pontoon entry forms for the dock lottery in March.

Beaches and ROWs, Boats: 1. Chair T. Nixon reported that the Beaches and ROWs Committee meetings will resume in March. 2. The porta-potties will be delivered in time for Memorial Day weekend. 3. B. Pelegano reported that resident L. Salerno has expressed interest in becoming a boat inspector this summer.

6. Beach Pass Checkers: Chair J. Greenfield reported that he will be reaching out soon to the previous checkers. He is considering expanding the hours in July when it's light out, and possibly contracting the hours towards the end of the season. Another question that has arisen is whether or not it's important to have the BPC's on duty in somewhat marginal weather. He would appreciate any feedback from board members or residents regarding these issues.
7. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano reported that there have been a few significant snow events this winter. One or two residents called about concerns with snow drifts and they were immediately taken care of, free of charge, by our contractor, who lives in the District.
8. Communications: 1. L. Bowen has been meeting with K. Patterson and resident D. Ciarfella over the past few weeks about this year's lake pass procedures. She reported that the website will be updated very soon with the 2026 information – and the emails containing the unique links to each resident's pass registration will start going out next week. 2. A few of the forms on the website, having to do with the boat inspectors, need to be updated. She will update them and send them to B. Pelegano and J. Arpin for review and comment.

K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

L. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the results of the ROW surveys (J. Caines/J. Greenfield) at 7:48 p.m. The board came out of Executive Session at 8:14, with an action for B. Pelegano to follow up with ALD attorney Adam Cohen, after obtaining additional information from the Beaches and ROWs Committee chair.

M. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

There was nothing to add at this time.

N. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (K. Rustico/J. Caines) passed unanimously at 8:16 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.