

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

May 20, 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, L. Bowen, J. Caines, J. Greenfield, J. Arpin, T. Nixon, C. Rockoff, K. Rustico.

K. Patterson joined shortly after 7.

C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

James Bennett, 61 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon: Stated that he was in favor of the dock expansion but asked why it had to go to a public vote. B. Pelegano explained that since it was not in the current year's budget, a special meeting would have to be held to approve the \$28,000 expense, as it exceeds the \$2500 threshold. If it is approved by the board later tonight, it will be voted on by the residents at the annual meeting as a "special project" in addition to the 2026-27 budget.

Ari Novis, 273 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon: He and several other residents attended an Invasive Species Workshop put on by the Connecticut Office of Aquatic Invasive Species (OAIS) and the Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) and gained insight into what other lakes are dealing with and what could be threatening Amston Lake. He learned of two opportunities for the ALD: 1. The ALD could receive a 50% reimbursement from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and OAIS for our 2026 boat inspector costs. 2. OAIS would like us to share our 2020 and 2024 plant survey data with them for incorporation into their data visualization tool. He'd like permission from the board for both of these projects. B. Pelegano encouraged Ari to send additional information to the board for approval.

Les Parlin, 21 Ryan Terrace, Lebanon: He recently sent the board the pamphlet "Caring for our Lakes," a publication from the DEEP. At a recent joint meeting of the Lake Usage and Lake Health Committees, several residents talked about noticing changes in the lake. The booklet talks about the normal process of eutrophication (waterbodies filling in) that is accelerated by humans clearing land for construction. Les also attended the Invasive Species Workshop and warned the board about the damage that dredging can cause. B. Pelegano stated that dredging hasn't been considered in the many years that he's been on the board.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2026 regular board meeting (J. Caines/J. Greenfield), approved without objection.

E. Presentation of Correspondence

B. Pelegano: 1. B. Pelegano stated that K. Patterson had reported that a resident who rents space at one of the ALD docks asked about the possibility of storing their trailer at the ALD lot on W. Island Beach Road. The lot was once used to store residents' trailers, but for a number of reasons the practice was discontinued several years ago. B. Pelegano will contact the ALD attorney for his comments and it will be discussed at the next meeting. 2. Resident stated that her Prius scraped the road on Manion Way and was concerned about the height of the road crowning. B. Pelegano will have the contractor inspect the road. 3. Received a follow-up email from a resident asking why another resident who is delinquent on their ALD taxes is allowed to work for the District as a Beach Pass checker. He explained that there is a set process for someone who is behind on their taxes, and doesn't include excluding them from working for the District.

F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

There was no old business to discuss.

G. Task List and Action Items

B. Pelegano went over the task list for May; many of the items have already been completed. T. Nixon reported that K. Patterson will spray the poison ivy at the beaches soon, and she will check the shed for the annual meeting signs. J. Caines will check with our accounting firm about the possibility of doing a review of the ALD books.

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 she is obligated to issue a report to the State of Connecticut once the ALD budget is passed. J. Caines went over the April financials as well as the fiscal year-to-date numbers, which are posted on the website.
2. 2026-27 Budget: J. Caines presented the proposed budgets for the General Fund and the Lebanon Roads Fund. 1. General Fund expenses are projected to be \$220,600 – for the current year it is \$212,000. Motion to approve the General Fund budget as presented (J. Greenfield/B. Pelegano). Discussion ensued, much of which was about the pros and cons of the recommendation by the Lake Usage Committee to allocate \$8500 for two studies done by The Pond and Lake Connection and Solitude Lake Management. Six directors approved the motion, one objected, and the motion to approve the budget passed. It was amended later in the meeting after the Dam Committee report. 2. Next year's Lebanon Roads budget would stay flat at \$40,000, with \$21,000 for snow/sanding and \$19,000 for repairs/maintenance. Motion to approve the budget as presented for Lebanon ALD residents only (B. Pelegano/K. Rustico) unanimously approved.

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 said the committee meeting minutes on the website includes a detailed discussion of a meeting held with members of the Lake Usage Committee. 2. Deepwater testing was done on May 18; the lake is currently at 7 meters deep. The lake is full and just about an inch over the spillway. Dissolved oxygen was excellent all the way to the bottom of the lake. Beach water was sampled on Monday 5/18 and the results were excellent. The hydrilla signs have been received and will be posted. 3. A resident's dock that had broken loose from the ice over the winter was retrieved and returned to the owner. 4. The CERT training that the Town of Hebron offered at the lake has been completed. 5. J. Arpin raised the possibility of hand-pulling the poison ivy instead of spraying to T. Nixon.
3. Lake Usage: Committee member B. Pelegano reported on behalf of committee chair, F. Hoisl that there was nothing new to report.
4. Dams: Chair K. Patterson stated that of the four vendors she contacted, she received only one quote for the dam inspection, and has put \$4500 in the budget for them to inspect both dams. Treasurer J. Caines had not added this amount into the General Fund budget, as there is already \$15,000 in the Dam Fund, so there will be no tax impact from this expenditure. However, after discussion, it was agreed that the amount should be shown as part of the overall budget. Motion to approve a new General Fund budget of \$225,100, which includes the previously approved budget, as well as the line item for Dam Inspection of \$4,500, with the \$4,500 having no tax impact (J. Caines/ B. Pelegano).

Motion was unanimously approved.

5. Docks: 1. Chair J. Caines went over the committee's recommendation for the purchase, installation, and reconfiguration of new docking systems at Main and Lollipop beaches, which was presented at the April board meeting. The price of the expansion and installation is \$27,777 and would be paid for using all of the \$7,200 that is currently in the Dock Fund, plus \$3,000 in dock fees that have been collected this season, leaving a balance of \$17,577 to be taken from the General Fund. The price does not include installation and winterization in subsequent years, nor does it include any benthic barriers; however, two are included in the Lake Health budget. Discussion ensued regarding the increased size of the docks and their impact on lakefront residents' views; the impact of adding more boats to the ecologically sensitive Lollipop Cove; weed trimming in an attempt to minimize muck in Lollipop Cove; options for yearly installation and winterization; additional benthic mats, installation, removal, and storage; and possible increased dock rental fees. J. Caines stated that the expectation is that future dock rental fees will exceed expenses and will be repatriated back into the General Fund as an offset to future taxes. Motion to approve presenting at the annual meeting the proposal for the purchase of the docks as presented, with any expense incurred for winterization to be added to the increased dock rental fees (K. Patterson/J. Caines). This would result in an approximate four-year payback. Six directors approved, one objected, one abstained, and the motion passed.
6. Beaches and ROWs, Boats: 1. Chair T. Nixon reported that both Cove and Meadowbrook ROW plunge pools were cleaned, the bushes behind the racks at Lollipop were trimmed, and several trees are scheduled to be trimmed. 2. They are looking for someone to rake the beaches this year. 3. B. Pelegano stated that he had requested a price from the contractor to install a plunge pool at Lollipop bend, where the water from the road dumps right into the lake. He's also contacted the town of Lebanon to see if they can provide any assistance in this effort.
7. Beach Pass Checkers: 1. Chair J. Greenfield reported that the Checkers are starting the season on Saturday. There are 15 Checkers, and for the first month, every shift is filled. 2. He and J. Arpin began re-installing the stakes and ropes at Lollipop Beach but aren't finished. He repeated what had been suggested in the past, that a more permanent system (i.e., posts) should be considered.
8. Lebanon Roads: B. Pelegano reported that repairs have been scheduled to take place before the end of the fiscal year.
9. Communications: 1. L. Bowen went over the plans for the annual meeting and asked that everyone be there by 9, as check-in begins at 9:30. B. Pelegano went over the election procedure.

K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Discussion of trailer parking on the ALD lot will be on the agenda.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (J. Greenfield/K. Rustico) passed unanimously at 9:38 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.