

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

August 19, 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 7:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Officers and Directors

Present: K. Patterson, L. Bowen, J. Caines, A. Fichtel, J. Greenfield, T. Nixon, C. Rockoff.

Absent: B. Pelegano, J. Arpin.

C. Recognition of Guests, Residents, and Property Owners

Ari Novis, 273 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon: He stated that he paddles the lake several times a week and believes the plant population to be somewhat static, and that plant surveys done by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and GZA support his belief. He believes that testing done by the Lake Health Committee shows that because Amston Lake is nutrient-limited, there isn't enough food to support more plants. He supports the use of District funds for the maintenance of the lake's common areas (beaches, ROWs, and docks) but not for plant removal outside of those areas, and believes the ALD could provide direction for waterfront homeowners to remove plants at their own expense.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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

E. Presentation of Correspondence

K. Patterson: The developer of the new community off of Hillcrest Drive, Hebron contacted the ALD, requesting lake passes. After some research at the town, K. Patterson determined that the owner of the property pays taxes to the ALD on a very small portion of the unsubdivided property that is within the ALD. The owner was given one set of passes (two parking and two key tags).

F. Old Business – Discussion and Possible Action

There was no old business to discuss.

G. Task List and Action Items

The boat auction was on the July task list, but there are no boats to auction off at this time.

H. Receive President's Report

Vice President K. Patterson reported that there are still some questions with regard to the ALD property boundaries on the Francis and Elsmere ROWs. She will discuss the situation with President B. Pelegano and hopefully have an update for the September BOD meeting.

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

Treasurer J. Caines summarized the Tax Collector's report, and is still waiting for the final rate book from QDS. He reviewed the July financials, which are posted on the website.

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

1. Long-Term Financial Planning: Chair K. Patterson said that now that they have the preliminary year-end figures, she will schedule a committee meeting in the next month or two.

2. Lake Health: K. Patterson summarized comments from an email J. Arpin sent prior to the meeting: He recalled that Greg Bugbee, the presenter at the June 6 CAES presentation, suggested several options for lake plant growth control, including hand-pulling and benthic mats, as well as application of chemicals, all of which are better for small areas. J. Arpin stated that hand-pulling weeds and the use of benthic mats have been practiced at Amston Lake in the past and have proven successful if done properly. J. Arpin and the members of the Lake Health Committee are available to answer any questions. The CAES aquatic inspection report is available on the ALD website under Lake Health.
3. Lake Usage: There was nothing new to report.
4. Dams: Chair K. Patterson reported both the Main and Duck Pond Dams were inspected on Monday, August 17. No major defects were found, and the report will be available to us in a few months.
5. Docks: 1. Chair J. Caines stated that there were logistical issues regarding the installation and removal of the benthic barriers by the lollipop docks, so they will not be installed this year. 2. He is working on getting residents to volunteer to set the docks up for the winter, or paying a dock company to provide this service.
6. Beaches and ROWs, Boats: 1. Chair T. Nixon reported that C. Rockoff will co-chair the committee. 2. The porta-potties will be removed right after Labor Day, the committee has ticketed several boats at Main Beach and the ROWs, and they continue to discuss ways to modify the ropes and poles at Main beach. 3. A. Fichtel reported a newly installed gravel parking area at the end of Francis ROW that, while some members of the committee disagreed, he believes is on the ROW; however, the stakes that were placed when the survey was done have been removed.
 - a. Trailered boat launch violation: A. Fichtel stated that 4 – 6 weeks ago a beach pass checker reported a resident had launched a trailered boat, not from the boat launch as required, but from their own property. The boat is now in the water at this resident's dock, with no stickers of any kind, and when A. Fichtel contacted the resident, he was dismissive of the violation. K. Patterson will draft a letter to this resident on behalf of the board asking him to appear before the board.
 - b. Motorcycle on Main Beach spillway: A. Fichtel reported that he removed a person from Main Beach who drove his motorcycle on the dam all the way to the spillway, and that A. Fichtel believed to be a danger to a child fishing on the spillway. He reported that he has not had any luck in getting in touch with the Hebron police. T. Nixon sent a message to all of the beach pass checkers about the situation.
7. Beach Pass Checkers: Chair J. Greenfield reported that things ran smoothly this summer, and they have all the shifts filled for the final three weeks of the season.
8. Lebanon Roads: Committee member J. Caines reported that there is no planned maintenance for the roads at this time, but since last year there was some work done to prepare the roads for the winter, it is likely similar work will take place this fall.
9. Communications: L. Bowen had nothing new to report.

K. New Business – Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business to discuss.

L. Prepare Agenda for Next Meeting

Add new fence at Main Beach for discussion.

Add committee assignments for discussion.

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (T. Nixon/J. Caines) passed unanimously at 7:54 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.