



## Meeting Minutes

### Amston Lake Association – March 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 Monthly Meeting Hybrid Meeting: Clubhouse and Zoom 6:30 pm

- Attendees: John Matra, Nick Salerno, J.D. Wilcox, Karen Hinch, Mary Withey, Brienne Tripp, Laura Santoro, Sue Matyszyk, Ann Riley, John Slauenwhite, Pam Hogan
  - Call to order: 6:32pm by John Matra, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick Salerno
  - Approval of Minutes from November, 2023 meeting: No minutes recorded – no quorum.
  - President's Report
    - Clubhouse repairs – the siding is coming in budget of \$20,400. We received \$6,000 in donations and people contributed to buy new fixtures and signage.
    - The ALD is establishing a Long-Term Financial Committee. They are going to recommend to move \$20,000 into an Emergency Repair Fund for us to use for clubhouse repairs.
      - Roof Estimate = \$14,000 and there's about 2 years left in the roof life.
      - Furnace Estimate = \$4,000 - \$8,000
      - Should we consider a new shed?
        - We would rather put the money into a new roof or new furnace than a new shed.
        - Ceiling – needs repair but not ready to repair just yet.
    - There is a seat open on the ALD Long-Term Finance Committee (lead by Karen Patterson). There are four meetings per year. If anyone is interested in joining, let John Matra know.
    - There will be an interior Clubhouse Cleanup
    - Huge tree limb from neighbor's property is hanging in our yard – could cause an issue. John Matra reached out to ALD for preferred vendor and they recommended "Connecticut Landscape and Tree." The person who came out and inspected said we have two diseased Ash trees that are dead and need to come down. They also said we have a White Maple which is approximately 250 years old and is an amazing specimen. John Matra asked the tree company to take the wood away after the trees are taken down (rather than keep a pile of decaying wood).
      - Cost to remove the two trees, remove the wood, and remove the limb = \$1,900John Matra suggested we come up with a plan for once the leaves start coming – we can see how things start coming in.
- After we pay for the ancillary stuff, this is what we have left in our accounts:
- ◇ Checking: \$3,400
  - ◇ Savings: \$3,500
- Motion to approve Tree Removal made by Sue, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann, all in favor.
- Movie Equipment – We need to tag everything that is required for the screen/set-up so we don't inadvertently throw away anything we need. John Matra asked JD to go through the movie equipment with Brie to make sure we have all the pieces.

- Looking for a plumber. Any recommendations are welcome. We don't have water or a spigot outside and if we want to do landscaping, we need water.  
Estimated cost for spigot = \$300 - \$500
- Master Gardner (Sherri Ann Martin) is going to draw up a plan for native, low-maintenance plants for the outside flower boxes.
- ALA House Manager – This role is open – work with Nick to ensure Clubhouse is always ready to be rented, clean, caring about the space, plumbing, etc.
- ALA Historian – This role is open – Would be nice to have a repository for photos
- Membership Dates – 5 dates are posted on our website  
We will team up and man the tables for Membership, Pass Pickup, Merchandise
- Hot Dog Social – sometime in May...?
- For Lake Day and Tiki Night we are going to rent the extra Port 'o' Potty. The cost is \$280- definitely worth it!
- Membership – The fee this year will be \$30 and we need to focus on getting more members.

Previous years' Membership:

2010: 61

2011: 28

62

97

89

2018: 203 households – highest number in years

2019: 197 (before Pandemic)

2021: No dues during Pandemic

181 (After Pandemic)

2022: 144

2023: 159

We want to gently differentiate between "Members" and "Non-Members"

Maybe for Lake Day, have a different entrance

Include more Member benefits

Suggested: 1 Membership card with 2 keyfobs that include

Membership # on it and each year we just put a new sticker for the year on the cards

We can purchase 250 cards for \$270

\*\*Motion to approve the cards: Nick Salerno, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Slauenwhite, All in favor.

Notifications will go on the website and in the Newsletter and will let people know what the Member benefits are.

Pass Pickup dates: 4/13, 5/5, 5/25, 6/15, 6/30

- Movie Night  
Maybe we can ask Georgia's if we can collaborate with the restaurant to offer a "Movie Night Meal," where if people show their ALA Membership card, they can receive the "Movie Night Special"

Brie will need help setting up for Movie Nights. Brie suggested getting dates online early enough so people can plan.

- "Happy Hour" - Thursday, March 14 at the HideAway Cafe at 5:00pm
- Suggestion to host a "Coffee Hour"
- All Social Events are posted on our website:
  - \* Tiki Night
  - \* Paella Dinner

- \*Lake Day
- \*4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- \*Yoga Fest
- \*Bingo on the Beach
- \* Octoberfest

- For Tiki Night, Nick hired a band (it's 2-3 people and cost is \$500) – Nick says “They’re good”

Rustic Streets – already booked

Beer Truck – JD is waiting to hear back

- Lake Day – We need a Food Truck  
John S. suggested “Oz ‘N’ Bones” - he will follow up
- Donna will post all the sign boards. Brie asked if we can get bigger signs.

- Treasure’s Report

- Ann will email me because she forgot the report on her way out the door to the ALA meeting

- Current Financial Status

Checking: \$13,394 (because \$10,000 from ALD) - \$9,600  
owed  
Savings: \$3,741 (This will pay for fees and Membership cards)

- Committee Reports

- House – Rentals have been good
- Nick gave 5 checks to Ann
- John M. says with improvements, he thinks rentals will pick up
- Merchandise – John S. Merch “freshen up” - he suggested an online company we can partner with. They have a quick turnaround and lost of products. We could provide a link online. Product typically ships within 2 weeks. He showed examples of designs.
- Suggestion for embroidered or silkscreen products, T-shirt (promo for Tiki Night, etc), floating keychain, Carebeener w/logo.
- We don’t want to tie up too much money in inventory or use space but we do need to have some merchandise – small inventory

- Public Relations

- Nothing

John M. says wants to hold off on turning on the Online Membership signup.

We will take cash, credit card, debit card for Memberships

- Old Business

- New Business

- Open House – Once all repairs are done, we should celebrate and host an Open House to show off the Clubhouse – also Clubhouse turned 70 years old. Maybe do this the day after May 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. We should have treats and invite the ALA Board.
- We should try to schedule a yard cleanup. Once the trees are removed and the Clubhouse is cleaned/powerwashed, we should use the space outside with picnic tables.
- 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in April for Spring Cleanup...? April 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> ...?

- Somebody offered to pay for the ramp – suggest we keep the cement slab and create a base so the ramp would go up. Then gravel on the sides to fill it up. Cost would be \$140 per landing
  
- Adjourn
  - Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:40pm by John Matra, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann, All in favor
  
- Next meeting – April 9, 2024