

ALTON-BARNSTEAD HALF MOON LAKE ASSOCIATION SECRETARY'S REPORT

AUGUST 21, 1994

The August 21, 1994 regular meeting of the Alton-Barnstead Half Moon Lake Association was called to order by President Larry Holt at 11:15 a.m. in the Recreation Hall of Camp Mi Te Na. Mr. Holt introduced the officers present and thanked YMCA Camp Mi Te Na's representative Mike Jette for the use of the facilities for this meeting which was attended by about forty members, and for the coffee and delicious peach coffee cake prepared for us.

Mr. Holt explained that the Camp had closed officially the day before and that following our meeting Mike Jette would give us a history of the Camp and a tour of the grounds. He asked that all sign the sign-up sheet before leaving.

The Secretary's Report of the July 10, 1994 meeting was read and accepted.

Mr. Holt stated that the Marine Patrol Officer's name was Jim Topham and that he was a resident of Barnstead. He explained that Mr. Topham, who was also a Deputy Sheriff, was very conscientious and had a sincere interest in our lake. He said that Mr. Topham had said that the biggest safety problem on the lake was with skiers and that there could be no more skiing in the Cove near the ramp. Mr. Holt stated that this would be hard for Cove residents, but that Mr. Topham would be at our July 1995 meeting if there were any questions. He also stated that Mr. Topham had explained that each boater was responsible for his wake and any damage it might do to property.

There were several copies of the New Hampshire Boater's Guide - a Digest of Boating Laws and each member was urged to take one. Mr. Holt explained that the biggest problem was with visitors and renters who were not familiar with the lake. He asked that members take the Bow Number from the front of any boat causing trouble so that it can be reported to the Marine Patrol Officer.

Several members asked questions pertaining to boating laws, such as, what was the distance a fishing boat must stay from someone's dock (if traveling under six miles per hour they can go anywhere); how old a watcher or observer for a skier must be (13 years old); and if jet skis were banned on holidays (just on Saturdays and Sundays).

Vice President Kevin Drum reported on having spoken to the new owner of the Half Moon Store property and stated that he was repairing the property with plans to open the store, but not the restaurant, in the fall, or next spring, and to sell gasoline. He reported that the underground tanks were tested regularly, but were on the State's list to be replaced in two years.

The condition of the Ramp near Herndon's Cottage was discussed and President Larry Holt reported that when the Marine Patrol Officer came to see him the night before he had bottomed out putting his boat in the water at the ramp. Several members spoke concerning the ramp. Auckland Geddes proposed closing the ramp because of the dangerous parking of trucks and trailers on the road there. Joe Arrigo made a motion to spend an adequate amount to repair the ramp for the benefit of the members. Ed Blair stated that to fix the ramp would make it more inviting to the public and the road was a hazard as it was, and suggested that the Association obtain control of the ramp before improving it. Michael Akstin said that he agreed with obtaining control of the ramp, but as members only used it twice a year to put their boats in in the spring and take them out in the fall, it didn't need extensive repairs. Chris Faus stated that it was becoming increasingly difficult for members to use and Kevin Drum suggested just a little gravel to repair it for that fall.

Steve Curtin suggested amending Mr. Arrigo's motion to include a specific amount of money to be spent on the repair of the ramp.

Mr. Arrigo's motion was reworded to read "To make temporary repairs to the ramp not to exceed \$500.00 and to be attended to in the next week or two." The motion was seconded by Chris Faus, and the members voted 18 yes, 12 no to make temporary repairs to the ramp. It was also decided that contact with Kent Locke to purchase the ramp for the Association should be continued.

Oscar Donati asked about the soapy, sudsy water noticed usually Monday and Tuesdays on the lake. He said that he had reported it to the Barnstead Selectmen who had promised to look into it. President Larry Holt explained that this condition was a natural result of the lake being used so much over the weekends and that the tests of the lake's water done three or four times a year had never found anything wrong with this soapy looking water. He stated that he and George Fitzpatrick would be testing the water the next day or two and that they would check with Mr. Donati to see if he had taken a sample of the soapy water which they could have tested by the State.

George Fitzpatrick reported the results of the July 15, 1994 testing which showed the same averages as usual and the excellent condition of the water. Mr. Holt explained that volunteer testing with State equipment was done particularly in the large swimming areas and that a careful watch was kept on the water's quality.

Secretary Elvia Hetu reported that a letter from Mary Geer had asked that members be warned about swimmers in floats going out into the path of boats.

Mr. Holt displayed an article in the Laconia Citizen about swimmers' itch caused by a parasite left by ducks if they stayed around an area for any length of time. He explained that ducks visiting and eating their natural diet for short periods would cause swimmers no harm, but that feeding the ducks so that they stayed around waiting for more could cause trouble.

Mr. Holt also displayed an article on the Shoreline Act passed on July 1, 1994 listing what you can and cannot do -- no fertilizer, no tree cutting, etc. -- the purpose being to protect New Hampshire's fragile waters by restrictions for 250 feet inland around all public waters. Mr. Holt stated that the Association would try to have copies of the law made for each Association member.

Following a reminder that the July 1995 meeting would be an election of officers the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Mr. Holt introduced Mike Jette who gave a brief history of Camp Mi Te Na and introduced Tom Archer, Camp Director. Mr. Jette described the facilities of the Camp which is open eight weeks every summer and stated that reservations can be made after January 1. Mr. Jette thanked the Association members for being good neighbors and and his presentation was met with applause.

Respectfully submitted,
Elvia Hetu, Secretary