

ALTON-BARNSTEAD HALF MOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT AUGUST 18, 1996

The August 18, 1996 meeting of the Alton-Barnstead Half Moon Lake Association was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Vice President Kevin Drum in the main hall at Camp Mi Te Na.

Mr. Drum introduced himself, explained the absence of President Carl Johnson, and, commenting on the beautiful weather, stated that perhaps our Association should only meet on rainy days.

The Secretary's Report of the July 7, 1996 meeting was accepted as read on a motion by William Duggan, seconded by Oscar Donati.

In the Treasurer's absence, his report was omitted.

Vice-President Kevin Drum introduced Marine Patrol Officers Brad Smith and David Gunther and Officer Smith addressed the group explaining the Patrol's restricted manpower covering most of Belknap County, its frequent viewing of action on Half Moon Lake from the shore, and how it was On Call for whenever needed.

Kevin Drum described Half Moon Lake's rule of counterclockwise travel for boats and Officer Smith stated that the Marine Patrol could not enforce that rule for us as it was not a State law, but complimented the Association members for handling that so well themselves.

Officer Smith spoke on Jet Ski restriction and described a Jet Ski as a watercraft able to carry no more than two passengers. He stated that the newly-designed machines for three and four passengers are called Wave Runners and legislation to ban them failed to pass.

Officer Smith recommended obtaining the boat registration number of any craft operating incorrectly or causing trouble and reporting it to the Marine Patrol immediately so that the Patrol could possibly catch the person in the act. Ed Blair suggested noting the car and trailer registration numbers also as a means of tracking the owner.

Officer Smith concluded with remarks about setting the buoys on Half Moon Lake and the members thanked him for his presentation.

George Fitzpatrick reported on the findings of the latest water testing done on Half Moon Lake and stated that, although he had only a partial report from the State to date, there was no change and everything was in just about the same good condition.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the report in the newspaper clipping brought to the July 7 meeting was completely false and that the fish in Half Moon Lake had very low mercury content. He stated that different lakes submitted different numbers of fish for testing which effected the results and that possibly the newspaper writer had confused our lake with another Half Moon Lake in Washington County.

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that two new areas had been added in addition to those normally tested on our lake and that there would be one more testing this summer.

The members discussed at great length the complaints received about the height of the boards in the Locke Lake Colony dam and what they could do to insure that they were kept at the proper level set by State law to prevent Locke Lake water from flowing into Half Moon Lake.

It was noted that the Conservation Officer for our area was an employee of Locke Lake Colony and therefore can't be of much help to us in this matter.

George Fitzpatrick read from a copy of a letter from the chairman of the New Hampshire Water Resources Board, dated July 6, 1966 and sent to James M. Locke, Director of the Locke Development Corporation (predecessor to Locke Lake Colony) stating that by order of the New Hampshire Water Resources Board on June 17, 1966, the lake level must be maintained not higher than 200.5 ft. and at no time must there be less than three feet below the top concrete abutments to Locke Lake's Dam #14.20.

On a motion by Frank Courtney, seconded by Ed Blair, the members present voted unanimously by a voice vote to establish as a part of the duties of the Association that the level of the Locke Lake Dam be measured semi-annually in conjunction with the water testing of Half Moon Lake to ascertain if the level of Locke Lake is that stipulated in the State ruling.

It was agreed that Mr. Fitzpatrick would contact the Conservation Officer and remind him of the State ruling and inform him that the Alton-Barnstead Half Moon Lake Association would be writing to the Water Resources Board to insist that its order be enforced.

Ed Blair recommended that the Association handle this matter first administratively and then legally. It was also a consensus of the members that a record should be kept of every date on which the water level is measured and the measurements taken and that letters be written confirming every action taken by the Association.

William Duggan reported that Mrs. Michael Fedorchak had discovered a peculiar growth clinging to fallen tree twigs while she was canoeing around the lake on her mission to clean up trash and debris. George Fitzpatrick reported that the growth had been tested and found to be Bryozoa (Moss Animalcules) a form of organism found in unpolluted and unsilted waters, especially ponds and shallow lakes on twigs and other objects where the light is dim.

Many members reported an enormous amount of ducks in their areas of Half Moon Lake this year. Vicki Pelletier asked for suggestions of ways to chase them away and received several ranging from pulling up the weeds they like to feed on and from shewing them away to a proposed duck hunt.

Kevin Drum thanked the staff of Camp Mi Te Na for being gracious hosts and providing coffee and delicious blueberry coffee cake.

On a motion by Ed Blair, seconded by George Fitzpatrick, the members voted to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

Elvia Hetu, Secretary