

ALTON-BARNSTEAD HALF MOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT AUGUST 22, 1999

The second regular meeting of the Alton-Barnstead Half Moon Lake Association was called to order in the Recreation Hall of Camp Mi Te Na at 11:07 a.m. by President Larry Holt.

Mr. Holt welcomed the twenty members present and thanked Camp Mi Te Na for its hospitality.

The Secretary's Report of the July 11, 1999 meeting was read and accepted on a motion by Larry Holt, seconded by Michael Akstin.

Ed Blair noted that the Secretary's Report had stated that members had seen someone with a truck putting fish into the lake in April 1999 and believed the lake to have been stocked, but Mr. Blair reported that he had contacted Steve Wheeler of the New Hampshire Department of Fisheries who told him that the State had not stocked the lake and had no plans to do so. He said Mr. Wheeler told him that the State does not stock warm water lakes, only lakes with trout, that there was enough young fish population to sustain the population in the lake, and that if the State surveyed the fish species in Half Moon Lake in the near future he would notify Mr. Blair.

Mr. Blair also reported that Mr. Wheeler said that fresh water mussels were edible, that smaller fish were safer to eat as they had not had as much time to build up contaminants in the meat, and that white perch are not particularly good to eat. Mr. Wheeler also gave other tips on not feeding ducks and a spray for the grass, available from his Department, to chase away geese.

The Treasurer's Report stating a balance of \$3,757.82 was accepted on a motion by Larry Holt, seconded by Carl Johnson. It was reported that 52 families had paid their Association dues so far this year, but it was noted that O'Neil Road and South Shore Drive Associations had not yet sent their members' dues to the Association which would add over 30 more paid members.

OLD BUSINESS

The members discussed joining the New Hampshire Lakes Association of which we had been an associate member up until a year ago. Mr. Holt described the information available from this Association and it was decided that the Treasurer would send a check for \$100.00 for the least expensive membership available so that we could remain a member.

Michael Akstin reported that he had approached the Barnstead Selectmen and they had "No Parking Between the Signs" signs posted where trucks and trailers are left while non-residents of the lake go in their boats on the lake. George Fitzpatrick reported that the police are monitoring the area and tagging those parking between the signs. He stated that the signs were too close together and the Selectmen would have to be asked to spread them out.

It was reported that gravel had been spread at the public launching area by the Town of Alton and that maybe from now on more boats would be launched

from there instead of the private ramp we maintain next to Herndon's cottage. Barbara Mahn asked if launching hours could be established because of the late night and 4:00 a.m. launchings.

Representatives from Fern Hill asked if other areas had experienced vandalism as their beach had — lounge chairs split, rubbish left on the beach, and new umbrellas stolen. Mrs. Michael Fedorchak reported fishermen hooking furniture near the shoreline and Mr. Holt stated that this should be reported to the Marine Patrol Officer.

Mr. Holt stated that he had called our Marine Patrol Officer Dan DeFrees and asked him to address our Association at this meeting which he had agreed to do if he could obtain his supervisor's permission. Mr. Holt reported that he was informed that a letter requesting a speaker must be received in advance by the Marine Patrol and that Officer DeFrees did not receive permission to attend our meeting.

Ed Blair reported catching a large snapping turtle in the Cove of Half Moon Lake by lassoing it, putting it in a garbage can, and releasing it in Merry Meeting Swamp.

Mr. Holt reported on the work of George Fitzpatrick, William Dugan, and Steve Curtin in repairing half of the dam. He spoke of the difficulty they had in holding back the water while replacing the planks and of his plan to provide two steel plates to hold the water while the workers replace the rest of the dam's planks. He urged any members who could help in this project. Mr. Holt also stated that we cannot lower our lake without the State's permission because the overflow of Half Moon Lake controls the water in Locke Lake.

Ed Blair explained why the speaker from the Department of Environmental Services was unable to address this meeting — the speaker he had asked for was on vacation and his replacement called Mr. Blair Friday to say she was too busy but would send a packet of material. Mr. Blair distributed these pages on Milfoil, Fanwort, Zebra Mussels, and other Exotic Aquatic Nuisances which are causing problems in New Hampshire Lakes. These pages told how to recognize the plants, how they get in a lake, and how to get rid of them.

Mr. Blair explained Northwood Lake's problem with Milfoil since 1980 and the \$70,000.00 treatment paid for by the State. He explained that when this treatment is performed again, as it appears to be needed, the land owners on the lake will have to pay half of the cost. Mr. Blair urged all Half Moon Lake residents to be on the lookout for these plants.

Mr. Blair read the suggestions for stopping the spread of dangerous aquatic plants, such as cleaning the bottom of one's boat before launching it into the lake, staying away from weed patches, reporting sightings, and pulling and removing weed roots, not just using rakes and shovels.

Mr. Holt described the water testing program which the Association has been carrying on with the State for the past ten years. He stated that the State Representative identifies the plants in our lake and has found no Milfoil yet. Mr. Holt stated that the laboratory fee for testing the lake's water is \$130.00 each time and it is done three times a year.

NEW BUSINESS

It was determined that the Association's year would be from August to August with all dues from each separate road association being turned in to the Treasurer before the August meeting.

On a motion by Ed Blair, seconded by George Fitzpatrick, the members voted to have the dates of both the July and August meetings given in the first notice to members each summer. These dates are the second Sunday in July and the third Sunday in August, unless August is a five-Sunday month in which case the meeting would be on the fourth Sunday. Mr. Blair suggested one notice a year to save mailing costs, but Mrs. Michael Fedorchak urged that two notices still be sent out as a reminder to members to attend.

The date and time of the Boat Parade were set as Saturday, September 4, 1999, raindate September 5, beginning at sunset (8:00 p.m.) and starting at Rustic Shores.

Michael Akstin described the August 25, 1999 first Barnstead Old Home Day with a race, bicycle parade, games, craftsmen, and a band concert all to be held at the park on Barnstead Parade.

Plans for taking an aerial photo of Half Moon Lake from which a map of residents' property could be made were discussed, and Michael Akstin agreed to get a price from the photographer taking aerial photos of Barnstead.

On a motion by Larry Holt, seconded by Maureen Fitzpatrick, the members voted to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

Elvia Hetu, Secretary