

MINUTES July 8, 2000

Alton Barnstead HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION

The meeting was called to order by Larry Holt at 10:20 AM at his cottage on Halfmoon Lake.

Absent was secretary Elvia Hetu. The minutes of the previous meeting ~~were~~ read by Pres. Holt. The minutes were accepted as read.

The treasurer's report was given by Maureen Fitzpatrick. The report noted there was a balance in the treasury of \$ 3883.86. The report was accepted as presented. Motion made by Mrs. McGonaghe and seconded by Connie. *duly seconded.*
Ethel McGonaghe

Under old business it was noted that the no parking signs on No Barnstead Road in the vicinity of the boat ramp are still not correct, the signs are too close together and have to be moved. Holt said he would follow up on this.

Presidents

Under new business it was noted that gravel was spread at the Alton boat ramp.

The boat parade was discussed but no date was set at this time.

Pres. Holt stated that this is the year the dam has to be inspected by the state.

Mike Akstin noted that 8/26 is old home day in Barnstead and there will be a lot going on. He also made available schedules for the Sat. night concerts.

It was reported that 10 bleach tablets were found at the inlet to the lake just off Rt. 28. It was felt that the tablets were put there by someone trying to clean up the smell in the area believed caused by the water. Holt and Mr. Murray are going to follow up on this which includes talking to the people in the area. *Robert*

Report of
Pres
The meeting held in June at the Barnstead Town Hall regarding the petition to the Dept. of Safety to limit speed on Lock Lake to 6 mph and the engine hp to 40 was given by Ed Blair who attended the meeting at the request of Pres. Holt. A majority of those present, approx. 145, were not in favor of the petition. Mrs. Gingras stated she read in the Alton paper the petition was denied. *Brown*

Old timer Frank Brewster was on hand for the meeting and everyone sang happy 82 birthday to him.

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Dues were discussed by Ed Blair and he felt that with the high cost of every thing including A lake for exotic weeds that we should increase our dues so we will have funds on hand to attempt take care of any costly problems. It was noted that in other situations the cost to treat a lake could be in excess of \$ 20,000.

There was discussion on this and the Rep. From Fernhill noted that she was able to get her people to pay the \$ 2.00 and didn't want to go back and tell them they now have to pay \$ 10.00. There was also an objection to having the money build up in the treasury and it was also suggested that if there was a problem the money could be raised at that time. Others felt that money could not be raised with out special meetings, special assessments, separate mailings and a lot of work on the part of the officers. Others felt that \$ 10.00 was a small amount to pay each year for dues and good water.

A vote was taken and it was voted to raise the dues to \$ 10.00 beginning in the year 2001.

A representative from the Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) was on hand to give a presentation as to the departments function and the current statutes under which it operates. Some of the highlights of his presentation are as follows:

As of 1/1/88 the sale, distribution, importation, propagation, transportation and introduction of exotic aquatic plants into the state of N H is prohibited by RSA 487:16-a. He stressed the need and importance for volunteers to monitor the water quality and to work at the state level.

The various kinds of exotic plants were described and he had a sample of the milfoil plant for people to see. He advised that if exotic plants are found they should be pulled right away and don't wait. These plants multiply at an alarming rate. Some plants can grow at an inch per day.

The presence of mercury in the lake was discussed and he stated the pregnant women and children should be careful not to eat catfish, large and older fish, big and small mouth bass. The fish contain more mercury than other types of fish. Fish caught can be brought to their lab for analysis of mercury content.

In the year 2000 only EPA outboard engines can be sold. These will be cleaner burning with less harm to the water. Our lake is about 12000 years old.

The shoreline protection act was discussed. The noted there are set back rules for new building, the use of fertilizer can be no nearer than 250 ft from the water, tree cutting with in 200 ft of the water is controlled and is monitored by the state. Anyone planning to take down trees should check the law.

Anyone drawing more than 20,000 gal of water per day from a body of water needs to obtain a DES permit.

The correct phosphorus level in a lake is necessary for a healthy lake. Fertilizer, horse manure, poor septic systems, and detergent upset the pH level and cause algae in the water. Everyone needs to pay attention to this. At the present time our lake has a good pH level according to the Rep.

Under the Clean Lake Program 319 there is money available to assist in taking care of problem once the problem has been specifically identified. There is also funds available to assist farmers in cleaning up problems that are causing Lake Contamination.

When cleaning exotic plants from the lake there are three methods, use of a bottom barrier, dredging, or pull the plants. There is also a chemical treatment and depending on the size of the lake the Rep. said the cost could be more than \$ 20,000. This was one of the lower figures he encountered. He also noted that sometime it is necessary to go back and treat certain parts of the lake again.

In closing he advised everyone to be vigilant and be informed. Teach people about lake use and don't let the lake go down hill, watch the chemical levels.

Announcement was made that there will be a location in Alton to get rid of unwanted chemicals and household cleaners.

Pres. Holt thanked the team, Fitzpatrick^m Duggan^m and others that participate in securing the water samples and having it tested.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Edward H. Blair

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