

The Halfmoon Lake Association Secretary's Report
August 30th, 2009

The second annual meeting of the Halfmoon Lake Association was called to order at 10:05 AM by Vice President Gary Lee with 30 members present. The meeting was held in the dining hall at Camp Mi-Te-Na in Alton, New Hampshire. Gary Lee informed the members about the speaker from Marine Patrol that failed to show up for the meeting as planned.

Debbie Fedorchak then read the Secretary's Minutes of the July 25, 2009 meeting. On a motion by Mike Akstin and seconded by Pat Mannion, the members voted to accept the minutes as read.

Linda Bramante, who reported a beginning balance of \$7944.93 in 2009, then read the Treasurer's Report. She has received \$1135 so far this year from dues. Our Expenses have totaled \$631.78 for postage, printing, water testing, NH Lakes Association dues, and a donation to the Loon Society. This leaves us with a current balance of \$8448.15. There is still \$1000 restricted in the Milfoil Fund for future use. On a motion by Pat Mannion and seconded by Bill Dugan, the members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as read.

Old Business

The first order of Old Business was brought up by Ann B. from Crescent Dr. She had heard that someone had seen milfoil on Crescent Beach. Gary Lee addressed her concern and stated that there would be much to talk about on the subject of milfoil in New Business. Ann also spoke of a loon raft that friends of hers had built and wanted to know if this is something we would be interested in doing. Gary Lee stated that the Loon Preservation Committee actually frowned on these rafts and only use them as a last resort. They prefer the loons to nest in a natural area. Discussion followed.

New Business

Judy Hanson noted that we have had a Bald Eagle flying around the lake. Many have seen him.

Milfoil was the next order of business. The two divers had come to pick the milfoil in the cove on August 5th. I, Debbie Fedorchak, then spoke to Amy Smagula from DES a few days after the divers left to find out when they would be back to pick the remainder that Linda Bramante and I found. She said that she couldn't give me a date for that. The divers are not scheduled, they just plan according to when their schedule allows. I asked her to have the divers call me in the morning that they are planning on returning. As of today, it is 3½ weeks and I still haven't heard from them. I will send an e-mail out to Amy tomorrow to find out what the plan is.

Linda Bramante said the best thing you can do if you see milfoil is to mark the area, and to call her or me to identify it. I then spoke of the "Milfoil Area Stay Clear" sign that I had made. There were fishermen in that area, and this weed is easily fragmented with lures and hooks. It seems to be working to keep the traffic down in this area.

Linda then told the members that we had gone to New Durham Town Hall for their monthly Milfoil Committee Meeting, but arrived too late as the members were going home. We spoke at length to the president of this association Art Hoover and his wife, Sue. We look forward to attending the September meeting to be introduced to Ed Neister, the Barnstead Milfoil Go-To-Guy. Linda stated that Amy Smagula was putting together a project plan for all the lakes with milfoil. Linda stated that we need to be pro-active and meet with Amy to see what we can do. We have milfoil, but in much smaller quantities than other lakes. I mentioned that Ed Neister is building his own vacuum raft. I will find out if he is certified and licensed to operate this vacuum extractor and to dive and pick this invasive species. Linda Bramante stated that the divers certified to do the harvesting of the milfoil get between \$150 to \$165 an hour. So far we have had the state divers out to pick 2 or 3 times and we haven't been charged. The milfoil is spreading, though.

Vice President Gary Lee then explained that Amy Smagula is from the Department of Environmental Services and is wearing many hats. He said that the State is cutting back on their services and that could explain the long wait we are facing. He would like to form a committee to stay in touch with Amy and Ed Neister and give them the authority to spend money as needed on divers. Much discussion followed. Maureen Fitzpatrick suggested a representative from each street to check the frontage in their area looking for the milfoil. Barbara Cipriani from Crescent Drive wanted to know if Locke Lake Colony couldn't get involved with helping, since they own 2 beaches on our lake. Gary Lee suggested that this might be something that the committee could be involved with along with getting some funding from the town. Mike Akstin suggested that we might have some young divers on the lake that could harvest the milfoil. He was told that the divers have to be certified in pulling the weed, not just certified in diving. Gary Lee said it was his plan to get certified in a future class to dive and pull the weed. Mike Akstin said he knows the town will help financially with the milfoil. Nina Kelly suggested getting a lake member certified to keep up with the problem.

Frank Bramante then made a motion to form a committee and allow the committee to use the initial \$1000 fund and to give them the authority to come back to the officers for additional funding as needed to control our milfoil problem. David Briggs seconded the motion and the members voted to accept this committee. The members of this committee are Frank and Linda Bramante, Mike and Debbie Fedorchak, and Ed Blair.

Linda Bramante suggested that the members might be interested in purchasing the book, Aquatic Plants and Algae from the DES for only \$5. I have agreed to go to the DES in Concord and pick up 20 copies for any members to purchase at the next meeting.

Pat Mannion made a motion at this time to put at least \$1000 a year into the milfoil fund.

Discussion followed. David Briggs stated that there is money in the account that the committee has access to as needed. Frank Bramante thought if the money were earmarked for milfoil, that it wouldn't be given away for scholarships, and he seconded the motion. A vote was taken, two members for the motion, the remainder against and the motion was defeated.

Mike Akstin thought that at some point and time, our dues might need to be raised. He then also suggested that for the time being that we could raise some money for our Association with a

3.

fundraiser or a 50/50 raffle. He then made a motion to have a 50/50 raffle at each meeting. Discussion followed. Nina Kelly seconded the motion and the members voted in favor of this raffle, to be run by Mike Akstin.

The boat parade was the next order of new business discussed. It will be on Saturday night September 5th, 2009 starting in front of Camp Mi-Te-Na at 8 PM. Rain date will be Sunday night, September 6th.

Frank Bramante asked to have us order him a few 2XX lake t-shirts. I told him I would have to look into it.

Mike Akstin wanted to thank Roger Hatch for the letter he wrote to get some people on South Shore Drive to pay their dues. When they pay the road dues, the Halfmoon Lake Association gets their \$10 from each household. He also thanked us for our efforts with the milfoil problem on our lake.

Gary Lee called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at this time. On a motion by David Briggs and seconded by Ed Blair, the members voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Fedorchak, Secretary