

**THE HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION  
SECRETARY'S REPORT  
JULY 9, 2011**

The first annual meeting of the Halfmoon Lake Association was called to order at 10:10 am with 25 members present. The meeting was held at the home of Roger and Barbara Hatch, President of the Association.

Our first guest speaker was Ben Klein, from the NH Lakes Association and Coordinator for the Heritage Project. He's creating a book, entitled "Reflections: NH's Lakes and People" which will serve as a coffee table book highlighting lake dwellers. He is inviting lake dwellers to tell their stories about lake memories so as to develop personal connections. He plans to digitally record stories and take pictures. While not all stories will make the book, they will likely be on the internet site that he will host. Members are encouraged to contact him to share their stories: 603-226-0299 or [bklein@nhlakes.org](mailto:bklein@nhlakes.org).

Our second guest speaker was Andrea LaMoreaux, Outreach Coordinator the NH Lakes Association. She has been a NH lakes professional for 11 years and spoke at length about the importance of helping to keep the lakes as beautiful and clean as they are today. NH Lakes Association is the only state-wide organization advocating for the protection and improvement of lakes and watersheds. There are approximately 1000 lakes in NH. She spoke about how we treat the land determines how healthy lakes are in NH. Watersheds are where water is collected and funnels into they lake, and they also contribute to the lakes' overall health. NH Lakes Assn works with all different interest groups to help craft legislation and implement educational programs. When questioned, she explained that HB2 amendment had passed, making the Shoreline Water Quality Act effective 7/1/11, making the act more streamlined and easier to implement and understand. Additional information will be forthcoming on their website: [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org). Andrea explained that we can help protect our lake with outreach efforts to increase membership, connect with entire watershed areas around lake, decrease phosphorous contribution to lake (i.e., algae) and increase volunteers for the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (i.e., camp counselors, campers, etc).

Andrea referenced Amy Smagula, DES, commending the Halfmoon Lake volunteers for keeping vigilance on water plans. She asked that we consider implementing the Lake Hose Program, whereby we would have volunteers staff boat ramps (i.e., meet/greet boaters). She explained that DES or Dept of Agriculture will not grant permits for mechanical or herbicidal removal of native plants (weeds). However, she indicated that they can be pulled out by hand if in front of docks less than 30x30. If they're not inhibiting access, they must be left. She strongly suggest the use of lake water to be pumped for those desiring green grass.

Nina Kelly then read the Secretary's Report of the August 29, 2010 meeting, as prepared/noted by Debbie Fedorchak. On a motion by Mr. O'Neil and seconded by pat Mannion, the members voted to accept the minutes as read.

Linda Bramante, who reported a beginning balance of \$8,373.15, read the Treasurer's Report. She has collected \$625 in dues, \$260 in t-shirt sales, \$20 books, \$100 donation, and \$100 from the Town of Alton. Expenses totaled \$1,864.39 to include \$300 to the NH Lakes Assn, postage, printing, labels, t-shirts, water testing, and donation in memory of George "Fitzy" Fitzpatrick. This leaves us with a current balance of \$8,613.76. On a motion by Vicki Pelletier and seconded by Kevin Hasenfuss, the members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as read.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Jim Rye questioned the results of the water testing. Mike Fedorchak was unable to attend the meeting. Frank Bramante reported that the first test was approximately two weeks ago and would send results via email. Overall areas were in very good condition; same baseline as in the past. The state recommended that eColi testing be done in July and August. Linda Bramante stated that when Mike F. met with the state, there was discussion about how to possibly reduce cost, and will be working with the state on how best this may be accomplished. Two other association members who have volunteered in the past are Betsy and Dugie. Linda also said that we had Debbie Fedorchak to thank while coordinating with divers last fall when they were in the cove. She ensured that the diver went back out when the water would get murky. She said that when taking the boat out in late November, she did find milfoil, but when she went out again in the beginning of June they surprisingly didn't even find milfoil in the cove. However, Amy Smagula had indicated that once a lake has it, it never leaves. Because of the harsh winter, it would have been a late start, and many of the plants die early due to heat. Linda suggested that we should train more people to look for this plant. It's very different looking at it from a jar vs. in the lake water. Current volunteers include Ed Blair, Mike and Debbie Fedorchak, Frank and Linda Bramante. We're seeking apprentices to volunteer.

Bill Mannion stated that he is on the Alton Milfoil Committee and plans to speak at their August committee meeting to request that financial support consideration be provided for small Alton lakes – not only for the larger lakes.

Roger Hatch announced that Locke Airport has been sold and that the new owner planned to maintain the property as a working farm, which means that there may be more traffic at the airport.

Mike ? asked whether the boat ramp was still owned by Locke and if we should approach the new owner about it. After much discussion, it was decided that we would not pursue at this time. Paul Hersom indicated that he would like to see it improved and that the area presents the biggest source of milfoil. Roger stated that some months ago someone did make improvements to the area, without raising awareness.

Bill Mannion discussed safe boating for the lake and reminded members to make renters and out-of-towners aware of boating safety regulations. He asked that if we see something egregious that we contact the marine patrol. The marine patrol has indicated that it's to their advantage to receive calls.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Roger Hatch read to the membership changes that were suggested by the new officers to the By-Laws, which included membership rights, officer terms, schedule of annual meetings, and meeting quorum. A motion was made to accept by Pat Mannion and seconded by Frank Bramante. Paul Hardcastle (?) suggested that we consider staggering the terms of the officers for the sake of continuity. After some discussion, it was agreed that we could revisit the staggering of terms at our next meeting, but it didn't preclude our adopting this revision and accepting the By-Laws with new language as written. All voted in favor to pass this motion; no nay votes.

Nina Kelly read to the membership the association representatives for each area of the lake and asked them to introduce themselves:

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Rustic Shores                  | Bill and Pat Mannion       |
| • South Shore Drive              | Ed Blair and Dan Wildes    |
| • Crescent Drive                 | Ann Bohley and Mike Geraci |
| • Newcastle Extension            | David Parish               |
| • O'Neill Drive                  | David Briggs               |
| • Fire Road 1 – The Point        | John Wheeler               |
| • Rte 28 Alton line to Varney Rd | Vicki Pelletier            |
| • Varney Road                    | No rep at this time        |
| • Fernhill                       | Al Gengras                 |
| • Halfmoon Bay                   | Kate Brown                 |

Nina stated that there were a number of members who had provided email addresses with "worldpath" as a server. Apparently, "worldpath" is no longer a provider, and we don't have updated email addresses for these members. The representatives have been asked to assist us by collecting dues and asking members to update their contact addresses – either email or US mail. Roger encouraged members to pay the \$10 dues, which is a nominal fee to contribute toward the health of the lake. He stated that we currently have an approximate 80% turnout in dues.

Bill Mannion spoke about creating a website for the association, similar to other lake association websites. He suggested that we could perhaps introduce forums, post minutes, etc. He explained that he would be willing to create and host it but would seek a committee of volunteers to assist; he would volunteer to be an adviser to the group. The cost of the website is approximately \$80/yr, but may increase to as much as \$120/130. A motion was made by David Briggs to pursue the website, and was seconded by Barbara Hatch.

On a motion by Frank Bramante and seconded by pat Mannion, the members voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nina P Kelly