

**THE HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT
August 19, 2012**

The second annual meeting of 2012 for the Halfmoon Lake Association was called to order at 10:10 am with 19 members present. The meeting was held at Camp Mi-Te-Na. President Roger Hatch presided.

Vice President Bill Mannion introduced Jay Aube from the NH State Department of Environmental Services to discuss the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Jay began his slideshow presentation by informing the group that surface water use contribute \$1.8 billion to NH's annual economy. He proceeded to note that the purpose of the Act includes the following:

- Maintain and restore vegetated buffers
- Better manage stormwater runoff
- Provide wildlife habitat

Scientific research has confirmed that impervious surface cover (i.e., paved driveways, roofs) on shorelands has negative impact on water quality; impervious areas concentrate water runoff.

Jay continued to explain the benefits of vegetated buffers to include:

- Promote infiltration by moderating the impact of heavy rain
- Extracts nutrients and some contaminants from stormwater
- Promotes wildlife habitat
- Stabilizes and shades the shoreline

Vegetated buffers prevent invasive species (i.e., milfoil) from taking root, where milfoil is much less likely to establish itself within shaded waters.

Jay discussed the effects of stormwater on fish habitat as limiting vision and interfering with gill function, increasing water temperature and decreasing dissolved oxygen concentrations. He explained that allowing larger volumes of stormwater to enter surface waterbodies accelerates aquatic plant growth and increases the likelihood of cyanobacteria algae blooms – such as was experienced on our lake last summer.

Jay encouraged property owners to take a look at where there may be stormwater runoff and redirect to pervious areas (i.e., drainage swail to divert water. Property owners are encouraged to visit the DES website for more information relative to stormwater management for shoreland property owners.

When questioned about how owners may receive more assistance/guidance relative to identifying potential stormwater issues, Mr. Aube suggested a point of contact may be Jeff Schloss from the UNH Co-op Extension where students may be engaged to visit specific sites. He also suggested the Acting Wakefield Watershed Alliance which established a "youth corps" whereby local students receive grants for improving the environment.

Lastly, Jay spoke briefly about the three items in the Act which required a permit:

- Excavation (i.e., big equipment brought on site)
- Fill which changes the contour of land
- Building new structures

Owners are free to cut vegetated buffers down to three feet for viewing and also free to plant native vegetation (i.e. blueberry bushes) as buffers without a required permit.

He suggested that members could visit the state website (www.des.nh.gov OR Google NH Shoreland Program OR use the link on our website, HalfmoonLakeNH.com) for a checklist which serves as an aid in determining if a shoreland permit is required. Jay encouraged anyone with questions to contact him via email: Jason.aube@des.nh.gov.

Vice President, Bill Mannion, thanked Jay for taking the time to share his presentation with the group, and presented Jay with a Halfmoon Lake Association tee shirt as a token of appreciation.

President Roger Hatch asked if any new members were present, and there were none. Roger thanked the staff of Camp Mi-Te-Na for agreeing to host our August meetings over the years and asked if they had any specific issues they'd like to raise; there were none.

Nina Kelly then read the Secretary's Report of the July 7, 2012 meeting. She included an amendment to the previously issued minutes which were suggested by Mike Fedorchak to include the following: *"He [Mike Fedorchak] explained that the DES had actually announced a change in plans as it pertains to a biologist accompanying the lake volunteers for additional testing. Whereby the names of lakes within the state would be divided in half. The first half of the alphabet (Halfmoon Lake included) would be scheduled for the additional water testing this year and all subsequent even years; the second half of the alphabet would be scheduled for odd years. Mike anticipated that the normal water testing for Halfmoon Lake would be scheduled toward the end of July (7/27) and the biologist would accompany the testers on the August (8/24) testing.* On a motion by Joe Buckley and seconded by Jean LeBlanc, the members voted to accept the minutes as read.

Linda Bramante, who reported a beginning balance of \$8,594.29, read the Treasurer's Report. She has collected \$785 in lake dues. Expenses totaled \$1145.30 to include \$300 to the NH Lakes Assn, \$141.89 for postage/printing/labels, \$480 for water testing (savings of \$260), and donations to the Loon Association for \$50 and \$50 in memory of Jody Connors. This leaves us with a current balance of \$8,233.99, representing a loss of \$360. Ed Blair raised the issue regarding a motion which was raised and passed at a prior meeting approximately two years ago, whereby there would be \$2000 withheld in a reserve account. Linda agreed that the designation of \$2,000 for the milfoil fund would be accounted for as a separate line item for as part of the overall lake association Cash Balance for Milfoil control. On a motion by Ed Blair and seconded by Bill Dugall (?), the members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as read.

OLD BUSINESS

The next water test is scheduled for August 24, as noted by Mike Fedorchak. Linda Bramante reported the same good news relative to milfoil status: none detected in the lake thus far – second year in a row!

Roger Hatch noted that he has been leaving a few notices on vehicles which encourages boaters to check for milfoil before/after putting their boats in the water. Owners are also encouraged to leave notices with boaters; notices may be accessed from the HALFMOONLAKENH.COM website. Jean LeBlanc asked if it might be possible to include on the non-resident notice a reminder about the boat traffic direction going in a counter clockwise motion; all members present agreed.

Bill Mannion announced that he had successfully acquired HALFMOONLAKENH.ORG in addition to our existing website HALFMOONLAKENH.COM. The cost is \$7.17/year. He noted that "immediate news" is posted on the left side bar of the side such as meeting notice dates. He stated that the documentation page with material from Mike is taking the longest due to the tedious nature of the work. As a point of history, Bill noted that the dam was the catalyst which brought about the Association and the first dues amount was \$1. Bill asked that if anyone had additional information they'd like to add, they can email Bill (email address on website).

Following are the names of the Lake Reps to include volunteer, Steve Miller for Varney Shores

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| • Rustic Shores | Bill and Pat Mannion |
| • South Shore Drive | Dan Wildes |
| • Crescent Drive | Ann Bohley |
| • 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 Shores | Steve Miller |
| • Fernhill | Jay Piwnicki |
| • Halfmoon Bay | Kate Brown |

NEW BUSINESS

Roger discussed a discussion he had with Jim Norris, owner of Norland Blueberries relative to the boat ramp. Roger read the Association's mission statement and noted that the boat ramp certainly helps property values. Roger agreed with Jim that he would raise the subject at the Association meeting. Roger noted that it would be the desire of the Association to continue use of the ramp, as we have for decades, and to keep it in reasonable repair. He said that Mr. Norris wasn't interested in selling and that he wasn't pleased with non-residents taking space when using the ramp. Jim felt that the

ramp was to be utilized by residents only – not guests or non-residents. The members voted unanimous support to allow the board’s officers to continue discussion on behalf of the membership.

Ann Bohley noted that there had been recent damage to the Crescent Drive public beach area to include a crashed fence and picnic table, as well as a broken windshield and building windows. The damage seems to be isolated to the beach area and has been reported to the Barnstead Police, who have been vigilant in maintaining watch for the area.

The boat parade is scheduled for Saturday of Labor Day weekend at 8:00 pm; boats are to gather at Camp Mi-Te-Na.

Roger Hatch read the nominations for the officer positions and members voted accordingly as follows:

President	Bill Mannion
Vice President	Roger Hatch
Secretary	Nina Kelly
Treasurer	Linda Bramante

On a motion by Ed Blair and seconded by Jean LeBlanc, the members voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nina P Kelly

WON'T YOU HELP?

By providing us with your email address:

- We save time and money (i.e., printing, postage)
- You're provided with emergency notices (i.e., water conditions, etc) during the year that are only provided to members w/email addresses

To: Mrs. Linda Bramante, Treasurer, 19 Paulina St., Somerville MA 02144-1812

Halfmoon Lake Association dues for 2012 from:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

***Make checks payable to the “Halfmoon Lake Association”**

Please include your e-mail address to help defray the cost of postage for meeting notices – thank you!