

**THE HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION  
SECRETARY'S REPORT  
JULY 7, 2012**

The first annual meeting of 2012 for the Halfmoon Lake Association was called to order at 10:05 am with 18 members present. The meeting was held at the home of Frank and Linda Bramante, Treasurer for the Association.

President Roger Hatch asked if any new members were present, at which time Linda Molino introduced herself from 104 North Barnstead Road. Welcome to Linda and family! Roger thanked the Bramante's for hosting and explained that he was unable to due to a family reunion.

Nina Kelly then read the Secretary's Report of the August 28, 2011 meeting. On a motion by Dave Briggs and seconded by Mike Fedorchak, the members voted to accept the minutes as read, with one exception: Mike stated that the e-coli sample was added to the water testing last year, and Linda added that we actually saved \$200. The e-coli samples will be taken at every beach three times per year.

Linda Bramante, who reported a beginning balance of \$8,613.76, read the Treasurer's Report. She has collected \$1260 in lake dues, \$50 in t-shirt sales, and \$100 from the Town of Alton. Expenses totaled \$1,429.47 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 \$8,594.29, representing a loss of \$19.47. 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. These designated funds could be used by the Milfoil Committee as needed for emergency situations. Roger asked if Nina could verify the information from prior minutes and report to the membership at the next meeting. On a motion by Jeff Byer and seconded by John Wheeler, the members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as read.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mike Fedorchak reported that June's water test results would not be available until July and that the July test may also be available in August. He explained that the DES had actually announced a change in plans as it pertains to water 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 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 water testing for Halfmoon Lake would be scheduled toward the end of July or beginning of August. It was questioned as to whether there was anything we might be able to do to avoid a repeat of last year's cyanobacteria warning for the lake. Mike explained that although heat and sun are apparent triggers for the presence of cyanobacteria, there is nothing we can do to prepare. When DES determines an elevated amount of cyanobacteria from their annual test (even if no blooms are present), there is potential danger to animals and small children, and the warning is issued. Bill Mannion noted that DES actually issued four or five warnings last year.

Bill Mannion discussed the issue of "run-off" as it pertains to the lake water quality and indicated that the NH Lake Association is willing to do run-off studies. The officers discussed bringing the question to the membership for legal implications. For instance, if the NH Lake Association should identify potential problem areas involving homeowners, would the homeowners incur the cost associated with the correction of the problem? Is this something the Association should take advantage of? Mike Fedorchak suggested that if someone knows of a potential problem, they can call DES anonymously to report the problem/issue.

Linda Bramante reported that she accompanied Debbie Fedorchak a couple weeks prior to the meeting to view the cove and boat launch areas for any potential milfoil, and she's pleased to report that there was no sign of milfoil – and this is the second year in a row! She reminded the members that milfoil could lay dormant for up to four years and return, so we must keep vigilant to ensure continued success.

John Wheeler reported about his efforts to monitor the amount of boat traffic initiated at the boat launches. Beginning May 1, he checked the launch area near Route 28 twice a day, and since May 9 he logged 23 boats – to include, license/trailer plates and boat types. He acknowledged that he may have missed some during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday week. Of the 23 boats logged, 3 were repeaters. He stated that the vast majority of non-resident boats arrive via the launch from Route 28, whereas the cove boat launch is primarily used by residents. Based on the information provided by Mr. Wheeler, Roger confirmed that the number of non-resident boat launches doesn't warrant a Lake Host Monitoring

Program, as had been previously discussed. In conjunction with the Association officers, John drafted a notice which may be placed on the vehicle windshield of any non-resident boater. Bill Mannion will ensure that the notice, "Welcome to Halfmoon Lake," is posted on the Association website (HALFMOONLAKENH.COM) so that members may feel free to print the notice and place on vehicle windshields at boat launches as needed.

Bill Mannion reported that Alton approved \$20,000 for milfoil, for the main purpose of intensely treating Merrymeeting River (a Milfoil source feeding Winnepesaukee). Chemicals can't be used within 500 feet of well water, so they will likely have to resort to harvesting. It was noted that Bill reported in the past that the Alton Milfoil committee was not focused exclusively on Winnepesaukee but concern also included the lesser bodies of water. It was noted that Mike Fedorchack attended the Barnstead meetings, where they also agreed that the lesser lakes would be eligible for future milfoil funds if the need developed. Although it could be a bureaucratic issue, Halfmoon Lake is eligible for funding by both communities of Alton and Barnstead.

Roger Hatch announced that signs had been changed at both boat launch areas indicating that milfoil has been found in the lake, so as to raise awareness among non-resident boaters.

Bill Mannion discussed the Association's website, HALFMOONLAKENH.COM, and asked members to visit the site. He is attempting to have all historical documents and archives posted, and thanked the Association's chief archivist, Mike Fedorchak, for all his dedication, time and effort in archiving as a "winter project." Mike informed the members that he had just received seven years of water test reports from Larry Holt which will also need to be archived. Bill noted that the website presently consists of six pages with various links and past minutes of Association meetings, and there is a photo gallery in process. Joe Buckley mentioned that he may also have some aerial photos to share for the site.

Nina Kelly discussed the Lake Reps and the need to stay up-to-date in identifying those reps. They were reported as follows:

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Rustic Shores                  | Bill and Pat Mannion       |
| • South Shore Drive              | 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 asked if there were any changes to the list as presented; none were offered. She will attempt to contact each of them collectively to confirm their rep status, but asks members to notify her if they are aware of any changes. 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. We greatly appreciate the assistance offered by each of these reps!

Roger announced that the next Association meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, August 19 at Camp Mi-Te-Na**. Jay Aube, Program Outreach Coordinator with Shoreland Protection, NH Dept of Environmental Services, who was unable to join us last August due to weather conditions, is scheduled to be our guest speaker at our August meeting.

## NEW BUSINESS

Roger Hatch asked the members for nominations for the officers positions. Nominations for officers are as follows; elections will be held during our August meeting.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| President      | Roger Hatch (current President), Bill Mannion      |
| Vice President | Bill Mannion (current Vice President), Roger Hatch |
| Secretary      | Nina Kelly   |
| Treasurer      | Linda Bramante                                     |

Roger asked if the membership was interested in making a nominal contribution to the memory of Jody Connor, who worked for the State of NH DES for 32 years and was instrumental in establishing the lake monitoring and protection programs. Ed Blair motioned to donate \$50 in his memory; motion was seconded by Mike Fedorchak.

Ed Blair stated that he had witnessed boats operating at night with no lights. In the interest of safety, he asked if we could appeal to boaters once again to use their boat lights at night.

Bill Mannion discussed the Association's website, and stated that the current site is a .com site. If we were to secure the .org site as well, the fee could increase perhaps \$15 per year, maybe less. John Wheeler motioned to secure the .org site domain; the motion was seconded by Jeff Byer.

Renee Adams asked if there was any information on the website pertaining to loons, and Bill indicated that there was a link which discussed the current legislation against lead lures for fishing. Linda Bramante stated that she would inquire from the Loon Association as to whether they might have signs relative to the legislation to protect the loons, and stated that they had requested a donation. Renee proposed donating \$50 to the Loon Association; Nina Kelly seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

On a motion by Dave Briggs and seconded by Mike Fedorchak, the members voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 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

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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!