

**THE HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT
July 6, 2013**

The first annual meeting of 2013 for the Halfmoon Lake Association was called to order at 10:05 am with 15 members present. The meeting was held at the Mannion residence; President Bill Mannion presided.

President Mannion welcomed everyone to the 47th annual, first semi-annual meeting of the Association, then proceeded to pass around two brochures to the attendees: "Unwanted" and "Attention Boaters." The first brochure discusses the various types of invasive lake plants and the second includes information relative to safe boating practices.

President Mannion then asked if there were any new owners present. Mr. Jack Heeter introduced himself from St Louis MO, having recently purchased property on South Shore Drive. Bill welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Heeter to the lake and as well as to the Halfmoon Lake Association.

The President then asked for the Secretary's Report. Nina asked if, in the interest of time, the verbal reading of minutes could be by-passed, and if there might be a motion to accept the minutes as presented with copies provided to attendees. Mr. Blair raised a question about a section of prior minutes relative to the milfoil line items of the budget. President Mannion requested that Mr. Blair's concern be addressed as a separate issue from the acceptance of the minutes under "New Business." Pat Mannion made a motion to accept; Mr. Blair seconded the motion. All attendees were in favor; none opposed.

President Mannion requested the Treasurer's Report from Linda Bramante, who reported a beginning balance of \$8,670.30. She has collected \$1,535 in lake dues, \$80 in t-shirt sales and \$200 from the Town of Alton for water testing. Expenses totaled \$1622.03 to include \$300 to the NH Lakes Assn, \$184.91 for postage/printing/labels, \$720 for water testing (3 tests), \$16.31 for the website, \$19.88 for refreshments, and donations to the Loon Association for \$50 and \$50 in memory of Jody Connors. This leaves us with a current balance of \$8,862.75, with \$2,000 of that total reserved for milfoil eradication. This year's expenses include \$2.75 for printing, \$50 for stone at the ramp, \$63.91 for the website and a \$250 donation for the YMCA's 100th anniversary. On a motion by Ray Valas and seconded Bill Dugan, the members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as read.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Mannion announced that the water test samples had been received the prior day, with favorable results. However, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) advised that there was separate sampling for Crescent Beach, and as of July 4 2013, there was a notice posted regarding cyanobacteria. As fact, the warning is for fecal bacteria, a high content level of eColi. The notice was posted by the Locke Lake Association – not DES – and they didn't have the appropriate signage to reflect fecal bacterial, only cyanobacteria. Mr. Mannion stated that additional testing was planned by DES that same day.

Vice President Roger Hatch added that Mike Fedorchak, our lake water testing spokesperson, was not overly concerned about the warning and that Mike planned to visit with DES on Monday to seek clarification on this issue.

President Mannion relayed to the membership that it is not uncommon to have such notice when there has been prolonged periods of rainfall. He said that lack of sunlight combined with the heavy rain results in runoff and affects testing results. John Wheeler noted that up until the last week or so the lake had been deserted, likely due to the weather, and that ducks/geese have been highly visible in the Crescent beach area. Linda Bramante stated that she had communicated with a representative of Locke Lake Colony and had learned that they had been responsible for posting notices, but they had not communicated with anyone involved with the Association. Bill thanked Secretary Nina Kelly for the quick email messaging which was sent to members notifying them of the warning.

Kathy Keegan shared with the attendees that she had placed a call to DES the prior day due to what she witnessed as pollution on the lake where the water was such that she felt the need to have her guests removed from the water and hosed down. The DES representative stated to her that a reading of 88 would constitute a normal reading, while the first test reading for Crescent beach registered at 200. DES added that had the water been as bad as what Kathy Keegan was describing that the water testing would have resulted in 1000 or more. DES suggested that Kathy contact the town health officer; Kathy hadn't done so because she felt the officer would likely not have been working the day after July 4.

Mr. Dugan stated that we will likely see more action by the state for assistance in reducing the duck and geese population.

President Mannion extended thanks to Mike, Larry, Frank, Dugan for their continued effort in monitoring the water quality of our lake, and expected that we would have the results of the recent water tests by the next meeting in August.

When asked for an update on milfoil, Linda Bramante stated that Deb Fedorchak hasn't discovered any milfoil or cyanobacteria even as late as Friday, July 5. She said that the water had been "cloudy" of late, likely due to the increased holiday boat traffic, and that it presented difficulty looking at the bottom. She also added that pollen seems to be affecting the quality of the water. Linda stated that Locke Lake will be performing milfoil removal next week. Last year, they spent \$20,000 on removal, with the Town of Barnstead contributing \$5,000. The eradication concentration will be around their boat ramp area and the connection to Halfmoon Lake. They also performed a herbicide treatment last fall.

Bill indicated that he had written to the Barnstead Milfoil Committee requesting results within 300' of the treatment area, and we are awaiting a response. He said that Locke Lake planned to lower the water by two feet for the upcoming treatment. The grates prohibit kayaks and canoes from migrating from Locke Lake, but doesn't prevent people from carrying their kayaks over the road and into Halfmoon Lake.

Dave Parrish shared with the attendees that many years ago, Locke Lake Colony had put arsenic in the water to the extent that it burned the hands/feet of people. He said it is important to put boards low enough in Locke Lake so as not to allow water to float into Halfmoon Lake. The state will not allow the lake to go above a certain level. Bill added that the Association, specifically he and Roger Hatch, will be petitioning the Barnstead Milfoil Committee to request funding toward the cost of our water quality testing.

Relative to the Lake Host Program, John Wheeler stated that we had experienced an influx of boat activity this year: 13 in May and 25 for the month of June. He said that it averaged approximately 5 per weekend, with the majority being kayaks and coming from the Route 28 ramp, just a few from the Barnstead ramp. Bill felt that it would be difficult to justify a Lake Host Program with the limited number of boats launching. He suggested that we continue to distribute fliers to be left on the windshields of cars.

Secretary Nina Kelly thanked those members who have provided updated email address so as to minimize the time/expense of mailing hard copy notices. She also reminded members that for immediate notification of warnings, such as was experienced over this past holiday weekend, only members who have provided email addresses are notified of such warnings because hard-copy mailings are not considered timely. She has requested of the lake reps when collecting dues, that they also update members home/lake addresses as well as their email addresses so that we may have up-to-date information. Nina will forward the informational sheets which lake reps may use when collecting dues and updating member info.

Following are the names of the Lake Reps:

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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

Bill advised the membership that officers had voted to provide a \$250 contribution to Camp MiTeNa in honor of their 100th year celebration. The contribution was provided with the suggestion that it be used toward their Welcome Center, which is in the process of being constructed, or as they saw fit.

President Mannion spoke about the aerial map of Halfmoon Lake which was worked on by Dave's father, Jim Parrish and Ed Blair in the late 1960's. He asked if lake reps could update their sections of the lake which represent their areas.

Linda said that it would be helpful for the lake reps to identify cottage numbers along with the member names. Bill passed out the different sections of the lake map and asked if the reps could have them updated and returned at the August meeting, listed as follows: (Note: Those reps who were not present at the meeting will have the maps forwarded to them by Secretary Nina Kelly)

Pat Mannion	Rustic Shores
Roger Hatch	South Shore Drive
Linda Bramante	South Shore Drive
Dave Parrish	Newcastle Extension
Rte 28/Alton	John Wheeler
O'Neill Dr	David Briggs

Bill announced that a New Resident letter will now be sent to all newly identified lake home owners by Nina.

John Wheeler asked about the status of the Association with the ramp. Roger stated that he thought we had an agreement, but apparently Mr. Norris felt we didn't have an agreement. In the last communication from Mr. Norris, he stated that he had not yet had an opportunity to go to the town. As far as we're concerned, communication is still open with Mr. Norris.

John Buckley stated that during a recent conversation with John Herndon, that Mr. Herndon was concerned about the safety related to two trees near the ramp property. After some discussion, it was uncertain whether the trees are the responsibility of the town or the owner of the ramp, Mr. Norris. Roger stated that he was hesitant to raise the issue due to open ongoing negotiations.

Relative to Association meeting dates, a discussion ensued as to the wording reflected in the current by-laws. A motion was made by David Briggs and seconded by Steve Adams to change the by-laws to read that the Association would meet during the month of July and during the month of August. They felt that it was sufficient that members receive notification in advance as to the timing of the meeting, without having to be more specific with the language included in the by-laws. All members present in favor; there was no opposition.

After further discussion regarding the funding for the Milfoil Committee, the following motion was read: "To establish a revolving reserve fund in the amount of \$2000 for the Invasive Species Committee to be used as needed and to be replenished automatically as a separate reserve account. Motion was made by Ed Blair and seconded by Thomas Lehman. All were in favor; none opposed.

Linda advised that our Association had spent \$400 in calendar years 2009 and 2010, while Locke Lake had spent \$20,000 to eradicate milfoil by applying spot chemicals. Amy Smagula, from DES, had commented that we are the only lake to have been successful thus far for the eradication of milfoil. Linda asked if there might be interest by any members to attend a weed watchers seminar which the NH Lakes Association sponsors in the month of May. She also indicated that Amy would be willing to come to Halfmoon Lake to provide education about lake plants. Mr. Wheeler suggested that Linda secure potential dates from Amy then send notification to members to determine interest. Linda agreed she would contact Amy.

Bill announced that the next meeting would be held at Camp Mi-Te-Na on Sunday, August 25, and that we would have Sara Steiner, from the DES, as our guest speaker for that meeting. Meeting adjourned 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

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!