

**THE HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT
AUGUST 24, 2014**

The second annual meeting of the Halfmoon Lake Association for 2014 was called to order at 10:10 am by President Bill Mannion with 34 members present. The meeting was held in the Recreation Hall of Camp Mi-Te-Na.

Bill introduced our guest speakers, Alton Police Lieutenant, Todd MacDougall, and Barnstead Officer-in-Charge, Joe McDowell. Officer MacDougall stated that he is the Operations Manager for the Alton Police Department, and was requested to speak today by Chief Ryan Hatch. He went on to discuss property crimes of theft and burglary, stating that the crimes are symptomatic of the economy, drug addictions, as well as crimes of opportunity. Thefts typically involve jewelry (which is most difficult to track/easy to have melted down), tools/power equipment, money/coins, medications, electronics (computer, TV, gaming devices), firearms (firearms are stolen in only 50% of crimes where firearms are available) and metal theft. Two individuals were recently arrested for metal theft, and there have been no further incidents since the arrest was made.

Anne Bohley of 53 Crescent Drive, stated that they have been on the lake for ten summers and go away to Florida during the winter months. Unfortunately, they didn't have their driveway plowed (with a covered car in the driveway) and had the electricity turned off, so the motion sensors didn't operate. Even though her neighbors had been watching her property, Ann and Mike were victims of a robbery which included two big screen TV's, jewelry and an afghan.

Officer McDowell stated that thieves will often look for homes where there seems to be no attention being paid to the property, they will knock on the front door and if no answer, they go to the back of the home to gain entry into the home. He suggested that when property owners plan to leave for a long weekend, vacation or season, that they contact their respective police departments to request a property check by routinely completed by police patrols. He also stated that it's wise for property owners to become acquainted with their neighbors, offering reciprocal agreements to keep an eye on one another's homes.

As an added precaution, Officer McDowell suggested that homeowners photograph or video all big ticket or sentimental items and keep them on a thumb-drive/flash-drive and take it with you or keep it in a secure place – rather than on your computer, in the event it could be stolen. Keep a list of those big ticket or sentimental items with the make/model/serial numbers. Additionally, he suggested that etching tools could be purchased, whereby homeowners could etch a personal number on the items (i.e., your initials with last four digits of your social security number). He indicated that all pawn shops are required to provide weekly reports to police, and police departments routinely attempt to match items from pawn shops with the NCIS database. Sometimes the thieves will successfully scratch out the make/model/serial numbers from items, but will leave the personal identification, not realizing what it is. Police have been successful in matching up these items.

Alarm systems and dogs are very effective. Officer McDowell stated that he knew of one local resident with two homes who purchased an electronic device which would emit a large dog sound when someone approached the door to knock. Additionally, he suggested that owners drop the window blinds, run electricity year round with times, use false alarm stickers (which may be purchased on line), peg a dowel rod against windows and sliding doors. The most important item to consider is a double-key deadbolt for your doors. "Key bumping" pops open a regular deadbolt, so it's important to invest in the double-key deadbolt and ensure that you use ALL pieces for installation of the deadbolt while installing high on the door.

One of the statement most often raised by residents when confronted or questioned by police is, "well, they looked kind of weird, but we didn't want to bother you guys." Both officers assured the members that there is nothing they consider too small or burdensome. Oftentimes when working on a case, it will be just the missing piece of information they needed to be able to close the case.

Kate Brown told both officers that when there were bombs which had exploded earlier this summer, she had contacted the Barnstead Police Department, but the call was automatically routed to the Belknap County Sheriff's Office, and it took a long time before an officer arrived. She asked what the protocol was for night incidents. Officer McDowell stated that Barnstead should have 7 full time/6 part time officers, and they currently have 3 full time/3 part time officers. If an on-duty officer is on another call at the time of a report, if it's serious enough, they will call another agency (i.e., Alton – available 24/7, Belmont or Pittsfield) for mutual aid. If it's not considered serious, they will wait until after their current call has been completed.

The bombs were made with metal roofing nails, as shrapnel, aerosol cans and lighter fluid, and there was no connection to the Boston bombing. Three teens (14-15 year olds) from Barnstead were apprehended.

When questions why there were three and not seven officers, Officer McDowell indicated that the positions hadn't yet been funded, and that they were seeking public input.

When questioned about whether they recommended that security systems be exposed, the officers indicated that they couldn't make recommendations; however, they did state that exposed cameras become targets. They also advised that if streaming to DVR equipment, be certain that the equipment is secured/locked away so as not to have confiscated via a break-in.

Officer McDowell added that they were resurrecting the Barnstead NH Community Watch Program on their website which includes information on how to report a person of interest, and they will be reconnecting with the Concord Regional Crimeline.

Lastly, one member suggested that if someone should witness a vehicle which doesn't seem to belong there, to write the plate number and vehicle info in your cell phone notes/reminders. This could go a long way in assisting police.

President Mannion presented each of the officers with a Halfmoon Lake t-shirt for their willingness to speak to our members.

President Bill welcomed first time attendees: Bill & Karen Bartley from 1455 Suncook Valley Road and William O'Neil from 8 O'Neil Road. It is noted with sadness that William's Dad, Judge O'Neil, passed away this summer and will be sorely missed.

President Bill reminded members that they would already have received copies of the last meeting minutes, so as to reduce our printing expenses. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented or advise of any issues associated with the minutes. On a motion by Mike Fedorchak and seconded by Bob O'Meara, the members voted to accept the minutes as presented.

In addition to previously providing the Association's summarized income statement, Linda Bramante reported that the expense for water testing had decreased by \$200 from approximately \$700, recognizing that it was closer to \$800 a few years ago. Mike has been working with the state to determine which tests are needed, which are not. Also, dues are slow to arrive this year. The beginning balance reflected \$8,979.38 and we ended the year with \$9,001.64. The only remaining expense is the water fee. She announced that she plans to send letters in October/November to individuals who we haven't received dues from. On a motion by Pat Mannion and seconded by William O'Neil, the members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER QUALITY

Mike Fedorchak reported that the results of the July water testing were pretty much on par with the results from June; we are currently within all parameters recommended by DES. Mike thanked Tom Hart from Camp Mi-Te-Na who lent assistance to us during the summer. Sara Steiner (DES) and an intern joined them for the August testing to conduct plankton testing, Dissolved Oxygen testing, and verify we are following proper procedures. She will update us with the August report and annual report later this year.

Dugan's inlet and Fernhill inlet again were not flowing enough to take samples; we were able to take them upstream. By us taking on the DO/Temp testing three times a year vs. the state doing it once every other year, we will be able to supply DES with additional lake water data for the future. Our chloride is still running a little high. This is generally associated with salted highways, and to a lesser extent with septic input. DES will keep us informed of changes and suggestions.

The new Cyanobacteria testing this year in conjunction with EPA and DES will continue next year so they can build a database of information via microscopic analysis. The hope is that they will be able to detect a possible outbreak of cyanobacteria before it occurs and notify the lake involved. Mike was uncertain what precautions we will be able to take at this time.

MILFOIL UPDATE

To follow up from the report which Debbie Fedorchak presented at the July meeting, she reported that when she was conducting her annual observation using the recommended gridwork pattern, she noticed a piece of brown milfoil

approximately 6" in length near the Hamel resident in the cove. She continued near the ramp and returned to the area of the Hamel residence and noticed a second piece. When she observed it, however, she noticed there was green amidst the silt. It started with small pieces floating on lily pads. She thought they were dead at first; it was the same area as the original milfoil growth.

However, two weeks ago, at the first empty lot on South Shore Drive, she discovered additional milfoil near the blue pipe which had formerly been used to pump water to Locke Farm. She immediately contacted Amy Smagula at DES who alerted stated divers to prioritize our lake, and they arrived within the same week. They discovered five plants rooted by the pipe and another small plant approximately twenty feet away. There is much sediment in that area and they continued searching, but no further milfoil was witnessed.

Linda Bramante advised the group that DES offers a weed watchers program training, which is conducted by Amy and is very informative. Amy and Jody Connor, who has since passed away, co-authored a reference book on invasive and native plants which can be found in the state of New Hampshire as well as New England.

Bill noted the recent article which appeared in the Manchester Union Leader relative to a lake in Goffstown which spends \$4,000 annually for milfoil treatment. He also reminded the group that milfoil treatment at Locke Lake has cost them nearing \$6,000 for this year alone. Alton is spending approximately \$18,000 for Merrymeeting River (not lake). In addition to treating with a herbicide, it must be hand pulled.

Linda stated that about four years ago, milfoil was spotted and we were successful in obtaining a private diver for approximately \$300-400. DES requires divers to be trained and licensed.

LAKE REP UPDATE

Nina sent excerpts of the resident database to each of the lake reps shortly after the July meeting, requesting that when reps collect dues for their respective areas, that they also take a few minutes to update the database information. To date, she has only received a few. She'll be contacting those reps directly who have yet to provide the updated information and extends thanks to those who have submitted the data; see list of lake reps below:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Rustic Shores | Sam Barvar |
| • 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 | Steve Miller |

MAP PROJECT

As his winter project, Bill is asking residents to go online (www.halfmoonlakenh.com) to check/verify the names which appear on the historical (1953) lake map. If someone notices a name(s) which is incorrect, he has asked to be notified so that it may be corrected. He also reminded the group that the website includes all minutes dating back to 1964 – in pdf format, much thanks to Mike Fedorchak for his time/effort with this project!

NEW BUSINESS

DUES

The issue of dues was raised and Bill requested that Linda address the group. Linda reminded the membership that when dues increased from \$5 to \$10, it increased the reserves from approximately \$4,500 to \$8,000+. She advised that the current reserves won't go far in the event of milfoil activity, even though \$2,000 of the \$8,000+ is "earmarked" for milfoil activity.

If we were to increase the dues from the current \$10 to \$15, it would increase the reserve by another \$2,000 - \$3,000. The dues at Suncook Lake are \$20, and dues for Locke Lake are several hundred dollars, but includes use of facilities, road maintenance, etc.

The current dues are sustaining us, as we have not collected dues as much as we have in the past. Linda estimated that there are approximately 10% of lake owners who don't contribute.

After some discussion, Bob O'Meara's motion was modified to reflect an increase of \$5 in dues, from \$10 to \$15 beginning in 2015; the additional \$5 increase is to go to the "invasive fund" until we reach \$8,000, then will go into the general fund unless the group votes otherwise. Pat Mannion seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

ELECTIONS

Roger announced that the incumbents for the positions of President and Treasurer have agreed to serve another term, and Bill Mannion and Linda Bramante were voted in respectively for the positions. Roger explained that he had served two terms for four years and although he very much enjoyed his tenure, he felt it was time to step aside and have someone new serve in the capacity of Vice President. John Wheeler was elected to serve the next term as Vice President. Nina reiterated Roger's point of having served for two terms (four years) and felt the need to step aside; however, there being no nominations at this time for the position of Secretary, she agreed she would serve one additional term.

BOAT TRAFFIC OBSERVATIONS

John Wheeler stated that he witnessed 14 boats to date for the month of August from the Route 28 ramp. The North Barnstead ramp is typically used for the bigger seasonal boats. The Bartley's also agreed to assist John with boat monitoring and placing milfoil warning notices on vehicles who use the ramp.

LOGO

Bill displayed a beautiful and professional logo for Halfmoon Lake, which was designed by member John Aucella and speculated whether it could be used for Halfmoon Lake Association t-shirts.

OPEN DISCUSSION

BOAT PARADE

Roger announced that the boat parade is scheduled for Saturday, August 30 at 8:pm. This year's parade will be led by newly-elected VP John Wheeler. All boats are to congregate in front of the Camp Mi-Te-Na, where there are typically 15-25 boats participating.

NEXT MEETING

Next year's first annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2015.

On a motion by Bob O'Meara and seconded by Mike Fedorchak, the members voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm.

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, 118 North Barnstead Road, Barnstead NH 03225

Halfmoon Lake Association dues in the amount of \$10 for 2014 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!