

**THE HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT
JULY 16, 2014**

The first annual meeting of the Halfmoon Lake Association for 2014 – the 48th annual meeting -- was called to order at 10:05 am by President Bill Mannion with 19 members present. The meeting was held at the home of Bill & Pat Mannion at Rustic Shores.

Although not present at the meeting, Nina welcomed new members Rich and Kathy Dunn who purchased the property at 1011 Suncook Valley Road in Alton NH.

Treasurer Linda Bramante announced that Association member, Ed Blair, had passed away in Florida in January, 2014. He had served as President and Treasurer of Halfmoon Lake Association and held the same positions for South Shore Drive Association. Linda will introduce a request for donation in his memory under New Business.

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 Bob O'Meara and seconded by Ray Valas, the members voted to accept the minutes as presented.

In addition to previously providing the Association's summarized income statement, Linda Bramante reported fewer dues being paid in 2013 (\$1345) than in 2012 (\$1535). She said that the expense for water testing had decreased by \$200 from approximately \$700, recognizing that it was closer to \$800 a few years ago. We eliminated/reduced some testing since some areas had been duplicated. We also expensed a one-time donation of \$250 to the YMCA last year in honor of its 100 year anniversary. Printing expense was higher last year due to the fact that Linda purchased additional stamps at that time; other expenses have remained fairly constant. The beginning balance reflected \$8,872.75 and we ended the year with \$8,979.38. She has collected \$250 from the Town of Alton as a result of a thank-you letter sent by Nina on behalf of the Association; this donation reflects an increase of \$50 from last year and another \$100 from the prior year. Linda estimates that there are approximately 15 members who have not paid their dues. On a motion by Bob O'Meara and seconded by Ray Valas, the members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER QUALITY

Mike Fedorchak reported the results of the June water testing, and comparing them with last August results and a master cheat sheet for our lake, we are currently within all parameters recommended by DES. We do have a few fluctuations that hopefully will settle with July and August testing. Mike announced a new temporary volunteer by the name of Tom Hart from Camp Mi-Te-Na, who is a recent graduate of RIT. To reiterate Linda's previous comments, Mike stated that since the state beach program started last year and consists of monthly e-Coli testing at Crescent and Dalton beaches, we have eliminated the duplicate testing, thus saving money. We are also trying to implement dissolved oxygen/temperature testing when possible, as this is a lengthy procedure. This testing is usually conducted by a biologist, but DES has agreed to allow us to conduct the testing. This year we will also have a biologist with us for our August testing to conduct plankton testing and verify we are following proper procedures.

Mike also advised that VLAP has requested volunteers optionally complete timesheets (provided by DES) to track how many hours all the volunteers are working. With their approval, Mike will complete the timesheets at last water testing in August. Additionally, in the last few years we have been requested to voluntarily participate in the Secchi Dip-in each year. This is a disk which is dropped in the water to check the clarity. Transparency is sensitive to changes in nutrient inflows caused by changes in land use and to changes in the temperature structure of the lake. We also welcome measurements of temperature. Note that these are measurements we already taken during the "deep spot" testing.

Lastly, at the request of DES, we have joined a program to document the "ice-in" and "ice-out" dates. Since Bill Mannion is at one end of the lake and the Fedorchak's at the other, and they are year-round residents, they will provide the monitoring for this request. Bill Mannion confirmed that this information will also be reflected on the Association's website.

MILFOIL UPDATE

Debbie Fedorchak 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. She later returned with Linda as far as behind the Boy's camp but nothing further was witnessed. She returned a couple weeks later to complete the section along Rte 28 and again witnessed nothing further. Amy Smagula from DES indicated that she will return in the fall for another review of the lake to ensure that there are no further milfoil spottings or active infestations.

Bill announced that milfoil treatment at Locke Lake was scheduled for July 21 and once again in the fall, with the cost nearing \$6,000. Alton is spending approximately \$18,000 for Merrimeeting 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.

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS

The Town of Barnstead has not been willing to donate any funds to our water testing efforts thus far. The Town of Alton, as previously stated, had been donating \$100 each year until last year when they increased it to \$200, then once again increased to \$250 this year.

BOAT TRAFFIC OBSERVATIONS

John Wheeler has lived on the lake year round for the last ten years, and checks the Route 28 ramp twice daily. The North Barnstead ramp is typically used for the bigger seasonal boats. During the month of May, he witnessed 11 boats at the ramp; 18 boats during the month of June; and 23 boats during the month of July thus far, for a total of 52. This compares to a total of 23 boats reported at first meeting last year. On the previous Monday, he witnessed five kayakers near the North Barnstead ramp who then went to Locke Lake. He has created notices which he plans to place on all vehicles using the Route 28 ramp, which essentially advises them of watching for milfoil on their boats/trailers and asking for their diligence in keeping our lake free from milfoil.

LAKE REP UPDATE

Nina indicated that she'll be contacting the lake reps directly via email; see list of lake reps below:

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • 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 |
| • Varney Road | No rep at this time |

MAP PROJECT

Bill Mannion announced that he had a number of owners for lake areas identified but still needed assistance for what he referred to as his "winter project." Ric Brewster stated that he has what he believes to be the original poster of the lake which his father had, and he offered to meet with Bill to review together. Bill would like to credit those who were originally involved in the mapping project. Still missing is information for the following: Large sections of Rte 28; Newcastle Extension; Halfmoon Cottage Bay, and Fernhill.

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.

Vice President, Roger Hatch, reminded the group of the Association's mission statement which reads as follows:

"To protect the interest of property owners through education and the continued monitoring of lake quality in order to enhance both property values and recreational opportunities."

To that point, Roger stressed the importance of ensuring that we have adequate funding available for the preservation of our water quality and therefore, enhance property values.

Our current expenses range from \$1400 - \$1600/yr, and revenue from dues yields approximately \$1345 - \$1500, which has put us in the negative each year. Attendees of the meeting voiced that unless people in arrears are willing to pay dues which they currently owe, it will likely result in the need to seriously consider a dues increase, essentially saying, "pay now or pay later" (referring to paying for potential expenses associated with milfoil removal which could cost us thousands of dollars).

This topic will be addressed once again at our August meeting (Sunday, August 24 at Camp-Mi-Te-Na's Recreation Hall at 10:00 am). This summary is being distributed via email to members, and Lake Reps will be requested to also hand-deliver another copy to each of their respective members while collecting dues prior to the next meeting.

ELECTIONS IN AUGUST

Bill announced that the positions of Vice President and Secretary would be vacant and requested assistance from the membership to fill the positions. Roger stated that from his perspective, the VP position involved very little time or commitment and that he enjoyed working with the group. John Wheeler stated that he had been approached about the possibility of considering the VP position, and he indicated that he was interested. Bill once again asked for consideration by the membership to step forward for the Secretary position prior to the voting at the August meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION

LOONS

Bill shared with the members that Tim Demers, from the Loon Preservation Committee, had visited the lake earlier in the week because a member had witnessed what she believed to be the beginnings of a loon nest. Upon examining the site, however, Mr. Demers was unable to confirm the existence of the nest. It was believed that due to the heavy rain we had experienced in the few days prior, that the nest was no longer there.

Debbie Fedorchak commented that while she and her husband were sitting on their deck, they witnessed what they thought was a loon egg on the Beyer's beach adjacent to their lot. They took a video of the egg and sent to the state rep asking if there was something they could do to protect it. When they looked again at the area a day or two later, they realized the egg was no longer there. Upon further inspection, it appeared that the egg had been ravaged by another critter and that the heavy rain had risen up to the point of the nesting area.

DONATION IN HONOR OF ED BLAIR

Linda reiterated to the group the roles which Ed Blair had assumed for the Association over the years, and asked if members were receptive to a one-time donation of \$50 in his memory to Foss Library in Barnstead NH. The motion was made by Debbie Fedorchak and seconded by Corinne Claunch.

CAMP MI-TE-NA

Ric Brewster advised present members that although they have enjoyed the Boys' Camp as neighbors over the years, they have experience an on-going problem each year with the "open sewer lagoon" utilized by the camp. It seems that by this time each year, for the last ten years, the bad odor emitted from the open sewer lagoon has been so foul that it has resulted in a call to DES to request involvement to have the lagoon treated. Nina advised Ric that the camp appointed a new director last year, by the name of Matt Hanson, who would likely address the situation willingly and directly if he was made aware of it; she provided the contact information for Matt to Ric Brewster.

RECENT BOMB ACTIVITY

Nina advised present members that there was an article in the Manchester Union Leader stating that the Barnstead Police Department had apprehended three juvenile suspects who had been responsible for creating three bombs in the Locke Lake colony area, including Dalton Beach.

AUGUST MEETING

Bill announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 24 at 10:00 am at Camp Mi-Te-Na's Recreation Hall. There will be signs directing us where to park. The guest speaker for the meeting will be Alton Police Chief Ryan Heath to discuss recent vandalism and break-ins.

On a motion by Mike Fedorchak and seconded by John Wheeler, the members voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 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 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!