

HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

SECRETARY'S REPORT

August 27, 2016

The second annual meeting for 2016 and kick-off to the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Halfmoon Lake Association (held in the dining room of the YMCA Camp Mi-Te-Na) was called to order at 11:10 am by President Bill Mannion with approximately 83 members signed in. NOTE: several other members arrived during the meeting, but an exact count was not taken. As part of a fund-raiser for the Association, a supply of new HMLA T-shirts and hats were on sale during and after the meeting.

Bill started by introducing the Board and welcoming all attendees to the 50th Anniversary of the Halfmoon Lake Association. Kate Brown read off a list of and welcomed new residents to the lake.

President Bill reminded members that they had already received copies of the July 2016 minutes (which can be found on file on the website: <http://www.halfmoonlakenh.com>). He asked for comments or objections. None were raised, so on a motion made by Mike Fedorchek, seconded by Pat Mannion, members voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer, Linda Bramante, presented the most current HMLA Income Statement. Linda reported that the year started with a cash balance of \$10,452.28. The Association has collected \$1,640.00 in membership dues. However, dues payments are pending from Fernhill Association. There was also a \$40.00 donation made by the Parish family in honor of the 50th Anniversary. The total income reported did not include proceeds from the sale of apparel items. Total expenses to-date were \$2,178.93 which included membership fees, postage, printing, website domain fees, water testing, dive certification course for Kate & Cliff Brown, and costs for the 50th anniversary celebration (does not include final costs of celebration). The ending cash balance to-date was \$9,953.35.

Linda also reported that the Association anticipates a contribution from the Town of Alton for water quality control. She noted that the Town of Barnstead has not contributed in the past, however a warrant for \$15,000 to cover costs of Milfoil treatment was passed at Town Meeting. The hope is that in the future, the Town of Barnstead will have funds available to help offset costs incurred by Halfmoon Lake. However, at the present, the town budget has been allocated to cover prior years' costs. Letters will be sent in October to the Board of Selectmen of both towns.

A suggestion was made by Cliff Mages that the Association locate other venues to sell T-shirts and hats, such as the Gilmanton Ironworks Market, or the Fernhill Colony camp store. Kate Brown will coordinate with Cliff to investigate interest.

Following the discussion, Mike Hurt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Bill Dugan, and voted on unanimously by members.

OLD BUSINESS

DUES REMINDER

President Bill Mannion encouraged all 'non-neighborhood association' members to pay their dues for the 2016 and noted that there has only been a small increase of \$5 (from \$10 to \$15). Member contributions go a long way to offset the costs of water testing, invasive species removal, and other important initiatives as well as build a buffer to help keep our lake safe, clean and pristine. Dues may be sent to Linda Bramante at 118 North Barnstead Road, Center Barnstead, NH 03225. Please be sure to include your Halfmoon address, mailing address, and most importantly, your email address.

LAKE REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

Kate Brown reported that she has received updates from several neighborhood reps and that she has made inroads into updating the database. The Association relies in part on neighborhood reps to keep us

informed of any transfers of property or changes in contact information. Kate will continue to contact reps to encourage them to send in the most recent contact list. Email addresses are most important as it keeps our mailing costs down.

WATER QUALITY/TESTING UPDATE

Mike Fedorchak reported that official water testing results began in 1966 at which time the water quality was deemed to be very good. During this past season, the Water Commissioner from DES has taken water samples from the lake three different times and results continue to remain stable as they have for the past seven years. Copies of past and present water testing results may be found on the website (www.halfmoonlakenh.com).

Due to the unusually warm summer, the volunteers on Mike's committee have been watching closely for signs of cyanobacteria, an organism that gets its energy through photosynthesis. With the long days of sunshine, warmer water temperatures and lower lake levels that NH has experience this summer, the risk of an outbreak has increased. Fortunately, there have been no indications of Cyanobacteria on Halfmoon Lake. If one were to occur, DES recommends that people, especially children, and dogs stay out of the water until it is cleared up. For more information on Cyanobacteria you can visit the DES website: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/cyano_bacteria.html

Mike expressed his sincere thanks to the many volunteers who work tirelessly to take water samples, monitor and report on lake conditions, record ice-in and ice-out and much more. Current members of the crew include Frank Bramante, N. Barnstead Rd., Bill Dugan, Rustic Shores; Jim Rye, South Shore Drive; John Wheeler, Suncook Valley Rd; Tom Hart, Camp Mi Te Na, and Mike Fedorchak, South Shore Drive. Mike has headed up this crew for several years and done a fantastic job. He would like to step down in a few years and made a plea for new volunteers who are willing to start assuming some of the responsibilities. If you are willing to serve, please email Mike at nhcottage89@metrocast.net.

Mike Hurd made a motion to accept water testing report; Melissa Drury seconded; and voted on unanimously by members.

UPDATE: At the July Meeting, a member inquired about the results of a fish that was submitted to DES for mercury testing last fall. Results had not come in at the time, however results were received on August 22. The fish was a Black Crappie, 32.5 centimeters long, and weighed 512 grams. Walter Henderson of the NH DES reported: "The mercury content was 0.417 mg/Kg. This result is slightly over the fish consumption advisory level of 0.333 mg/Kg. That being said an occasional meal of fish with this level should not be an issue, but if you are eating these fish two or three times a week then it would be a health concern. If you look in the 'NHFishUpdate' (posted on the website) you will see that your fish has pretty much the normal level for Black Crappies in NH. If your consumption is within the guidelines you should be fine."

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD ELECTION

President Bill Mannion stated that the two-year terms for the HMLA Board members were up and asked for nominations of new members to run for any one of the four positions. In the absence of any nominations, all four Board members agreed to serve another two years. A vote was taken and members voted unanimously for the following individuals:

Bill Mannion – President
John Wheeler – Vice President
Linda Branmante – Treasurer
Kate Brown - Secretary

MILFOIL UPDATE

Linda Bramante briefed members on the status of Milfoil on water bodies in the Town of Barnstead. A Milfoil Committee was established last November to assess the extent of the invasive weed in Suncook Lake and River, Locke Lake, Halfmoon Lake and local ponds. The committee meets every second Saturday of the month at the Barnstead library. Deb and Mike Fedorchek, Linda Bramante, and Bill Mannion have been attending regularly. The committee did a thorough analysis of what the town and state has spent on Milfoil treatment. Linda reported that the State has spent over \$400,000 in the past ten years and the problem continues to exist.

Locke Lake, Suncook Lake, including the dam outlet, and Suncook River have had serious infestations requiring large expenditures for chemical treatment and manual removal by divers. This effort has overextended the town's funds for Milfoil control resulting in Suncook Lake residents paying out \$5,000 to make up the difference. For this reason, a warrant to devote \$15,000 out of the 2017 Fiscal Year budget was presented to the Town of Barnstead and voted in at the town meeting in the spring. However, until the deficit is resolved, funds may not be available to Halfmoon Lake this year. Nonetheless, it is a step in the right direction. (As noted previously, the Town of Alton contributes \$250 annually to the HMLA funds.)

Linda emphasized that the key to controlling Milfoil is to stay ahead of it. The best method of removal is pulling by hand using certified divers. Suncook Lake has had divers working two times a week over the summer pulling 800 gallons. The Suncook River is scheduled to undergo a chemical treatment in September.

Halfmoon Lake has been more fortunate; being nearly Milfoil-free for the past several years thanks to the efforts of the volunteers who are constantly monitoring the lake. However, this past spring a large section of Milfoil was discovered floating free in the cove (off South Shore Drive). Upon further inspection, an outcrop was found using radar in about 7-10 feet of water. Divers were called in and pulled weed from that section. Two weeks later many small pieces of Milfoil were again found floating or washed up on the shore, most likely from fragments that had broken loose while pulling or boats churning up the lake bottom. Subsequently, the State sent in two divers to search for any remaining Milfoil and map the area. They found and pulled several small plants from the same location. To prevent any re-growth, divers will go out in September to check the area and pull any remaining plants. Our goal as an Association is to make sure we put every effort forward to maintain that control.

A question was raised about the Chinese Mystery Snail that has been found in the lake. Deb Fedorchek explained that, although an invasive species, it poses no harm to the lake.

LOON NESTING UPDATE

Bill Mannion gave an update on our first-ever loon family. Two years ago, Bill and John Wheeler along with nine others worked with the Loon Preservation Center to build rafts for nesting. One was placed on Halfmoon Lake. This year a pair of loons started to take interest and after moving several times, the pair built a nest and successfully hatched two chicks on July 23 and 24. Unfortunately one did not survive, but the other is growing fast and seems to be thriving well. A huge thanks to John and Pat Mannion for their diligent loon watching. It has been an exciting summer for all.

BOAT OBSERVATIONS

John Wheeler Vice President HMLA, has lived on the lake year round for the last eleven years, and checks the Route 28 ramp twice daily. He reported that over the summer boat traffic slowed down, only having observed 29 craft.

BOAT PARADE

Bill Mannion announced that the Annual Labor Day Weekend Boat Parade would be held on Saturday, September 3, with a rain date of the 4th. Boats should line up at 8:00pm in front of the YMCA camp.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Hurd, of South Shore Drive, thanked the Board and Water Committee for their hard work. He mentioned that over the summer he has been researching the effects of potassium and phosphorous on the lake water. He suspected that the primary source of potassium was from fireworks. However, he has subsequently learned that fireworks manufacturers removed potassium from fireworks shells many years ago, so it is a non-issue for our lake. He did encourage people to remove debris from fireworks displays from the lake and surrounding area.

Mike also discussed the impact of phosphorous on NH lakes. Phosphorus is an essential element for plant life, but when there is too much of it in water, it can speed up eutrophication (a reduction in dissolved oxygen in water bodies caused by an increase of mineral and organic nutrients) of rivers and lakes. A sign of this is excess algae in the lake. An increase in phosphorous most commonly results from run-off in areas that use high potassium/phosphorous fertilizers or have fecal material from animals and water fowl, or inefficient septic systems. Mike made several suggestions to lake front owners to help curb the introduction of phosphorous in our lake water:

- Use non-phosphorous fertilizers for your lawn
- Pump septic tanks on a regular basis
- Pick up animal waste from your lawn
- Pick up refuse from fireworks displays

Bill Mannion reminded members that news about the lake and water quality can be found on the website, www.halfmoonlakenh.com. He also asked for input on a date for the 2017 July Annual Meeting. Members voted for July 8th. Reminders to come in the spring.

At that time a motion was made to adjourn by Mike Fedorchak, seconded by Pat Mannion, voted on unanimously by members.

Following the meeting, the 50th Anniversary Celebration began with an introduction by Chairperson, Clare Bolster, of the day's activities and a brief history by Bill Mannion of the Association's founding.

Clare introduced Matt Hanson, the director of Camp Mi-Te-Na, who welcomed all members and expressed his appreciation for the Association's support over the years. This marks the 104th season that the camp has resided on the lake, and this year it hosted 650 boys. Clare acknowledged the generous contribution the camp has made in providing facilities, a BBQ, and camp activities for our celebration. A huge round of applause was given to the camp and its staff. The Association is ever so grateful.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Brown
HMLA Secretary

HMLA OFFICERS / CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bill Mannion, President	603-776-2362	wpmatlake@aim.com
John Wheeler, Vice President	603-581-6779	goatroper144@yahoo.com

Linda Bramante, Treasurer
Kate Brown, Secretary

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978-376-9598

lbramante118@gmail.com
katebrown@browntech.com

Halfmoon Lake Association Dues for 2016 for:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Please include your email address to help defray the cost of postage for meeting notices and to assure you receive emergency email notices (i.e. water conditions, etc.) during the year. Thank You!

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

Linda Bramante, Treasurer

118 North Barnstead Road

Barnstead, NH 03225

Make checks payable to the "Halfmoon Lake Association".