

**HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION  
SECRETARY'S REPORT  
JULY, 9 2016**

The first annual meeting of the Halfmoon Lake Association for 2016 was called to order at 11:07 am by President Bill Mannion with 22 members present. The meeting was held at the home of Bill & Pat Mannion on Rustic Shores Dive. Although the skies were threatening, Mother Nature cooperated by keeping the rain at bay long enough for the meeting to take place.

Bill began by welcoming new member, Evan Stowell, who recently purchased the property at 119 Suncook Valley Road in Center Barnstead, NH. Kate Brown noted that there have been several other new residents to the lake since last August and welcome letters with HMLA news have been sent.

President Bill reminded members that they had already received copies of the August 2015 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 Cliff Brown, seconded by Pat Mannion, members voted to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer, Linda Bramante, presented the HMLA Income Statement. Linda reported that the ending cash balance for 2015 was up from the prior year by \$956.15. This was due in part to an increase in dues this year (from \$10 to \$15), reduced water testing costs (the state is now assuming the cost of some testing), and a reduction in postage costs. Cliff Brown questioned why the 2016 Lake Association Membership Dues, recorded in the Income Statement, were so far behind the ending balance for due in 2015. Linda explained that many of the individual neighborhood associations, such as South Shore Drive, Fern Hill, and Rustic Shores., have yet to hold their annual meetings and that their dues typically are sent following that. Nina Kelley inquired about requests for donations from the towns of Alton and Barnstead for Milfoil control. Linda reported that the Town of Alton had donated \$250 last October, but that the town of Barnstead had declined. Letters will be sent again this year to the Board of Selectmen of both towns and the hope is that the Town of Barnstead will contribute. (See Milfoil Update for More Information.). Following the discussion, Ray Vallas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Clare Bolster, and voted on unanimously by members.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**DUES REMINDER**

Treasurer, Linda Bramante, encouraged all 'non-neighborhood association' members to send in their dues for 2016 as soon as possible. Your 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. As documented previously, dues are now \$15 and may be mailed to Linda Bramante, 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 a few neighborhood reps in 2015. However, the email and address database has not been fully updated in a few years. There have been several property transfers since the last update and the Association relies in part on neighborhood reps to keep us informed of any changes and contact information. Kate will be contacting all reps over the summer 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 the June water testing results were not yet available from the Department of Environmental Services (DES). However, they were received following the meeting and Mike indicated in an email that the numbers were pretty much aligned with June of 2015. The horse farm conductivity is down ten points from last June, which is a good thing and will be monitored each month. The results may be found on the website ([www.halfmoonlakenh.com](http://www.halfmoonlakenh.com)).

Mike also noted that DES is now recommending that the testing schedule for Cyanobacteria be increased (twice/month vs once a month) of which they will pick up the cost. So far, there have been no indications of an outbreak. For more information on Cyanobacteria you can visit the DES website:

[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/cyano\\_bacteria.html](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/cyano_bacteria.html)

Earlier in the meeting, Steve Adams inquired about the results of mercury testing done on a fish that was submitted to the Volunteer Mercury fish program last fall. Mike has not received a report yet, but noted that it does take time for the volunteers to test samples. However, the fish has been frozen and is in the queue for testing. Mike will follow up with either an email or trip to DES to find out how we will be notified. Mike also said that if anyone finds a dead fish floating in the lake, they should bag it, label location found, and drop off at his house. He will make sure it is submitted to the program. Mike may be contacted by phone (603-776-6899) or email ([nhcottage@metrocast.net](mailto:nhcottage@metrocast.net)).

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., Jim Rye, South Shore Drive, John Wheeler, Suncook Valley Rd, Tom Hart, Camp Mi Te Na, and Mike Fedorchak, South Shore Drive. Past volunteers included Bill Dugan & Larry Holt of Rustic shores. 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](mailto:nhcottage89@metrocast.net).

A big round of applause was given by members to acknowledge Mike for his hard and conscientious efforts.

## MILFOIL UPDATE

Linda Bramante reported that a large section of a plant was recently found floating free in the cove (off South Shore Drive) and looked very much like variable Milfoil. It was sent to DES who confirmed it was variable Milfoil. Subsequently, Deb Fedorchak and Linda Bramante searched the cove and found a few more floating pieces, which again were confirmed to be Milfoil by DES. Amy Smagula, the Liminologist/Exotic Aquatic Plant Program Coordinator for the state came out and did a thorough inspection of the lake using sonar equipment to map the entire lake. She located Milfoil in the cove in about 7-10 feet of water, but did not find evidence anywhere else. Markers were placed around the area in the cove where the Milfoil was located and state divers came in the week of July 11<sup>th</sup> to pull the Milfoil. They are schedule to return in two weeks to search for more growth.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING: Since the original report, many milfoil pieces have been found floating free in knee deep water in the cove as well as washed up on the shore. Divers are still scheduled to come back out and do another extensive search for 'mother' plants. If you should find a suspicious fragment floating in the water, please bag, mark location and leave on the doorstep of either Deb Fedorchak's or Linda Bramante's doorstep.

Given this unusual outcropping of Milfoil, a suggestion was made at the meeting that the Association place additional signs at the two boat ramps alerting boaters to avoid any areas on the lake that is marked off with floating markers to avoid spread of the weed.

Linda also noted that there is a Barnstead Milfoil Committee headed up by Ed Niester that meets every second Saturday of the month in the Barnstead library if anyone is interested in attending and getting involved in the effort. The town has a reserve of \$15,000 for eradication of invasive plant species, but most of the funds have been allocated to the Suncook River and Upper & Lower Suncook which have a significant problem with Milfoil invasion. Several measures had been put in place to reduce the problem, but last year the town ran out of funds and ended up with a \$5000 deficit for physical and chemical control of the problem. Linda pointed out the seriousness of the problem by stating that Barnstead has spent over \$400,000 in the past ten years on controlling invasive species in its waterways. This year a warrant was passed at the Barnstead Town Meeting to reserve an additional \$15,000 to the cause. We are optimistic that some of these funds will be allocated to Halfmoon Lake in our effort to keep the lake free of invasive species. Till now, the problem has been under control. Our goal as an Association is to make sure we put every effort forward to maintain that control.

#### 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. This year he has observed approximately 48 non-resident boats launched in the lake since May, mostly fishing boats. He believes that this may be higher than prior years due to the arrival of early spring.

#### LOON NESTING UPDATE

As previously broadcasted via email, a pair of loons built a nest and set up housekeeping on the floating raft that Bill Mannion and John Wheeler built last spring. The loons have successfully mated and have been observed taking turns sitting on the nest tending to the egg(s). The projected due date July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The raft/nest is located off Fernhill close to Rustic Shores. Representatives of The Loon Preservation Committee have come out and strategically placed two Loon Nesting signs to caution curious boaters, canoers, and kayakers to keep a safe distance away from the expectant couple. We kindly ask that everyone respect the couple's privacy to prevent undue distress.

There are many binoculars and telescopes focused on the nest. We'll be sure to send out a birth announcement when the big day occurs!

#### OIL SPILL UPDATE

As previously broadcasted via email, a heating oil spill occurred into the lake about six weeks ago as a result of a ruptured basement tank on S. Shore Drive. The town was immediately notified by the homeowner. The situation was subsequently reported to the NH Environmental Services - Waste Management Division which has taken over management of the site under the supervision of the Town of Barnstead Building Inspector who states that all proper corrective actions are being taken to contain the oil.

Test pits and a drainage pit were dug on the property and the remaining oil in the basement was been drained. In addition, booms with absorbent pads were placed on the lake front around the house to contain the slick and absorb any oil that may be leaching out of the soil. The booms have been removed, but the absorbent pads are still located on the shore front to contain any runoff from rain fall.

The NH Environmental Services assures us that the oil spill has not harmed any fish or wild life and that lake activities such as swimming may continue as usual as long as there is no oil slick on the surface. However, we advise that any lakefront owner with an indoor or outdoor oil tank inspect it regularly for leaks to avoid this incident in the future. You can consult with your oil company to know what to watch for.

### SAFE BOATING

Please be advised that any motorized craft that operates on Halfmoon Lake must be registered by the state of New Hampshire. We may be a small lake, but NH Marine Patrol checks regularly for unregistered craft, including those moored or docked at a residence. So please be compliant and register your craft to avoid fines.

Also please be sure to practice safe boating practices. Halfmoon Lake many years ago instituted a counter-clockwise direction for all boating traffic to avoid accidents. Please make sure your guests or renters are aware of this. All water Skiers, tubers, and wake surfers should abide by this practice and try to keep activities in the middle of the lake. It also goes without saying that alcohol and boating do not mix well. In fact, if a boat driver is stopped by Marine Patrol and deemed to be operating while impaired, he/she could risk losing their driver's license. So let's keep Halfmoon Lake safe and accident free!

### AUGUST MEETING - 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY!!!

This is the big year!! The Halfmoon Lake Association will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is planning a big celebration on Saturday, August 27th at Camp Mi-Te-Na from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Please mark your calendar. It is a day filled with fun activities: a barbeque provided by the YMCA camp, games, prizes, lots of memories, and socializing with your neighbors. More information to come.

### NEW BUSINESS

Discussion about plans for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. Committee established. First meeting to be held on Friday, July 15. Agreed we would not have a speaker for August meeting.

Motion made to adjourn by Mike Fedorchak, seconded by O'Meara, voted on unanimously by members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Brown  
HMLA Secretary

### **HMLA OFFICERS / CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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Linda Bramante, Treasurer	603-776-0486	<a href="mailto:lbramante118@gmail.com">lbramante118@gmail.com</a>
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