



**HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT
Minutes August 26, 2017 Meeting**

On August 26, 2017, the second annual meeting for the 51st year of the Halfmoon Lake Association was called to order at 11:15 am by President Bill Mannion with approximately 56 members and guests present. NOTE: several other members arrived during or after the meeting, so an exact count was not taken. The meeting was held in the dining room of the YMCA Camp Mi-Te-Na and followed by a BBQ, generously provided by the camp staff and supplemented with pot-luck sides and desserts from members. As part of a fund-raiser for the Association, a supply of HMLA T-shirts and hats were on sale during and after the meeting.

Bill started by introducing the Board and asking any new residents to introduce themselves. Members welcomed Margaret and Wayne McCarthy who purchased a lake-front house on Suncook Road in Center Barnstead. We wish them many years of fun on the lake.

Bill also announced that the guest speaker for the meeting—Marine Patrol Officer Hugh 'Chip' Dougherty—was unable to address the group due to an emergency call at another lake. The Association will try to invite Chip to be a guest speaker at a future meeting.

Bill then introduced Matt Hanson, Director of Camp Mi-Te-Na, and his staff, and sincerely thanked them for allowing us to use their facilities as well as providing a BBQ and activities for our picnic.

President Bill reminded members that they had already received copies of the July 2017 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 Ethel McConaghy; 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 \$11,082.37 and currently has a balance of \$10,810.24. To date, the Association has collected \$1,030.00 in membership dues, however dues payments are still pending from some members, a few local neighborhood associations as well as an annual donation from the Town of Alton. Other income was generated from t-shirt and hat sales during and after the meeting. Expenses for this year total \$1,808.13 and include membership fees to the NH Lakes Association, postage, printing, website registration, water testing, purchase of t-shirts and hats, and a donation to the NH Loon Society. The Association is expecting one more expense for water testing. However, in summary the final ending balance for FY 2017 is expected to increase over prior year. Debbie Fedorchak made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Mark Watson, and voted by members to accept unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

LAKE REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

Kate Brown reported that she has received updates from most neighborhood representatives and has been updating the email and address database accordingly. She also acknowledged the efforts of Ethel McConaghy, who has taken over responsibility for representing New Castle Extension.

WATER QUALITY/TESTING UPDATE

Mike Fedorchak reported that the July testing results were improved over June's report. In June, samples showed a higher level of E-coli bacteria than the standard for our lake (between 20-30 units versus 10), however still below the level of concern established by the State. It was back down to normal levels of 6 on the July testing

report. Mike mentioned that Sara Steiner, our representative from DES, believed that the high level of E-coli at the beginning of the summer was probably due to all the runoff in early spring. This seems to be the case based on the reports from July.

A question was raised as to the impact that geese can have on E-coli levels. Mike confirmed that run off from droppings can introduce bacteria into the water, but that it does not seem to be a problem at the present.

It was also noted that beavers at the Fern Hill inlet by the beach and the inlet by the Doody's have built dams in the past obstructing flow into the lake. Sara Steiner has checked both areas and thinks the flow is adequate. In addition, the beavers were trapped at the Fern Hill, relocated, and the dam destroyed. The Water Quality Committee will keep a close eye on this

There was no evidence of cyanobacteria this year which is very encouraging. Mike mentioned that there were a few other lakes in NH that had to shut down due to high levels of either E-coli or cyanobacteria, so Halfmoon Lake did well this year.

Several areas on the lake are tested three times a year, except for Dalton and Crescent Beach which Locke Lake does through DES. We are still awaiting the results of August testing. Results may be found on our website www.halfmoonlakenh.com/documents or for Locke Lake results www.halfmoonlakenh.com/links.

Mike also announced that his team of volunteers has increased with new members and now includes Frank Bramante, Jim Rye, Paul Hersom, John Wheeler, Rich Perkins and Jay Macken. On behalf of all our members, the Board would like to sincerely thank Mike and his team for their dedication and hard work.

MILFOIL UPDATE

Linda Bramante reported that earlier in the summer a 5-foot-long piece of Milfoil was found on the shore line off South Shore Drive. Am Smagula, the Liminologist/Exotic Aquatic Plant Program Coordinator for the state, was notified and did a thorough inspection of the lake using sonar equipment to map the lake, but did not find anything significant at that time. Later, Mike and Debbie Fedorchak went around the cove in their pontoon boat using a fish finder and found several dark mounds. With further inspection, a 'mother plant' was discovered and markers were put in place. Two State divers came out on July 14th and pulled nearly 35 gallons of Milfoil in the identified area. The Fedorchaks also located with their fish finder similar spikes at the bottom of the lake off Crescent Drive and marked the area.

Two weeks after the State divers came in, Kate and Cliff Brown dove in both areas They did not find any evidence of Milfoil on the Crescent Beach side of the lake, just large mounds of Bladderwort which is native to the lake. However, when diving between the markers off South Shore Drive they found many remnants of Milfoil and pulled two bags of the weed. Kate and Cliff plan to return at the end of the summer to clean up what was missed.

Linda mentioned that the Town of Barnstead Milfoil Committee pulled 370 gallons of Milfoil from Suncook Lake this year versus 2000 last year, so efforts to control the weed in the area are working. The Committee is now looking at treating the Suncook River which is seriously infested. The original plan was to chemically treat the river last September, but it did not work out with the State. The current plan is to get back on track next year using the DASH system which is essentially an underwater vacuum to suck up the weeds and then pull remaining plants by hand.

LOON UPDATE

For the second year in a row, the loons successfully mated and over the July 4th weekend and two chicks hatched over a twelve-hour period. The chicks immediately took to the water and the family quickly abandoned the nest located off Rustic Shores and moved to the cove. This year both chicks survived and have been growing nicely. They are now growing feathers and should be flight-worthy by the end of August or early September. There have

been several visiting loons on the lake as they begin their migration to the ocean where they will winter over. It is expected that the parents will return next year to nest once again.

SAFE BOATING

John Wheeler noted that there has been an increase in boating activities over the past couple of years including the introduction of several 'wake surfing' boats. He has observed several unsafe practices while tubing, skiing, or wake surfing. He made several recommendations for maintaining safe boating while at the same time allowing everyone to enjoy the lake. John will draft up a document with his recommendations, but some of those that were discussed at the meeting include:

- Always maintain a counterclockwise direction for boating traffic to avoid accidents. If you rent your property, please make sure that your tenants are aware of this.
- When towing a skier, tuber, or boarder, the driver on the boat should always keep his/her eye forward, never looking back at the skier. The designated observer must be an adult and is responsible for keeping an eye on the skier and alerting the driver when the skier is down. If the driver wants to periodically watch the skier, John advises putting in a mirror in place, so he/she can periodically look back but at the same time keep attention on the waters ahead.
- When a skier, boarder, or tuber is down, the driver should turn to the right to keep the downed individual in constant sight.
- The most recent introduction of wake surfing craft to the lake has resulted in very strong wakes that have reportedly caused some boat damage and dislodged docks. While we respect the right to use these craft, we ask that you limit the activity to the center of the lake and avoid going into the cove. Keep in mind, boat owners are responsible for any damage caused by their boat.
- 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!

New Business

BOAT RAMP

Bill Mannion advised members that the boat ramp on North Barnstead Road is privately owned and has been graciously made available to Halfmoon Lake residents for many years. However, the owner has recently observed several 'dirty boats' being launched at the ramp and is concerned about the introduction of invasive species into our pristine lake. Bill requested that anyone using the ramp please respect the owner and abide by all regulations and laws. See below for guidelines.

NEW STATE LAW REGARDING TRANSPORTING WATERCRAFT

A new State Law went into effect on January 1, 2017 requiring boat owners when transporting their craft from waterbodies to clean off *all* fragments of vegetation and animals, as well as remove *all* drain plugs and leave in the open position when transporting. There is new signage at both Halfmoon Lake boat ramps—the private ramp on the Barnstead side and the public ramp on the Alton side—which alert boaters to the new law. A hefty fine (\$500) will be imposed for any boat owners who do not comply. The State has imposed strict guidelines on how to clean and drain your boat. Please review the attached 'Clean, Drain, Dry' document and post it in your residence if you rent it out during the summer. This information will also be posted on the HMLA website:

www.halfmoonlakenh.com

In addition, all motorized craft that operate on Halfmoon Lake must be registered by the state of New Hampshire as well as be operated by a licensed driver. 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. If you or anyone in your family does not hold a current State license, you can take a safety course to become licensed. Simply log onto <https://www.boat-ed.com/newhampshire> for more information.

NON-PROFIT STATUS FOR HMLA

Linda Bramante mentioned that she has received donations to the treasury by a few individuals. Since we are not a designated non-profit organization, these donations are not tax deductible. She presented a proposal to investigate what it would take to become a 401/501C organization. If financially feasible, it would enable some donations to be tax deductible, but would also require that the Association files a tax report every year as well as issue 1099 forms for qualified donations. A motion was made by Cliff Brown to look into the matter as long as there were no expenses involved. The motion was seconded by Bill O'Neil and approved unanimously by the members.

JULY 2018 MEETING

The 2017 July Meeting & Evening Social was such a success this year with more than 50 members in attendance we decided to continue with that format for next year. Since July 4th falls in the middle of the week, two dates were proposed: Friday June 30th or Friday June 7th. In taking a vote with a show of hands from the members, the preference seemed very close with June 8th being slightly higher. The Board will take both dates under consideration and send out a newsletter with more information in the spring. We hope to see you all there.

BOAT PARADE

It was decided that the traditional annual boat parade would be held on Saturday, September 2nd, beginning at 8:00 pm. This year the parade would be led by the LeBlanc family who has lived on the lake since 1978. The parade will be dedicated to Francine LeBlanc, loving wife, mother and grandmother who enjoyed entertaining her family on the lake every summer.

A FOND FAREWELL

It with great sadness to learn that the Parrish family is leaving the lake. Jim and Martha Parrish purchased their property on New Castle Drive more than 60 years ago and were the founding members of the Halfmoon Lake Association. Their son, David, grew up here every summer and can tell many amusing stories about happenings on the lake over the years. Sadly, Martha passed away this year and Jim has relocated to Massachusetts. David and his wife, Han, will continue to hold dear many memories of life at Halfmoon Lake. We wish them the very best.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Brown
HMLA Secretary

HMLA OFFICERS / CONTACT INFORMATION:

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