



**HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT
JULY 17, 2017**

On July 7, 2017, the 51st annual meeting of the Halfmoon Lake Association for 2017 was called to order at 5:20 pm by President Bill Mannion with 52 members and guests present. The meeting was held at the home of Kate and Cliff Brown on Halfmoon Bay Drive and was followed by an enjoyable Beer & Wine Social during which members had a chance to mingle, catch up, and enjoy a wide assortment of delicious hors d'oeuvres, and refreshments.

Bill began the meeting by introducing the Officers and welcoming new members. Among the new owners we've learned about this year are: Gail and Steve Guinasso of Crescent Drive, Jennifer Fife-Luster also of Crescent Drive, Bob Allison & Jane Thorbeck of South Shore Drive, Richard Perkins of Halfmoon Bay Drive, Peg and Brian Mullen of Suncook Valley Road, Kathy & Fran McCateer of O'Neil Road (not all in attendance). If your name is missing or you know of a new neighbor, please contact Kate Brown at katebrown@browntech.com.

Bill reminded members that they had already received copies of the August 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 Ray Valas, seconded by Dean Finethy, members voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer, Linda Bramante, presented the HMLA Income Statement. Linda reported that the ending cash balance for 2016 was \$11,082.37, up from the prior year by \$630.09. This was due in part to an increase in dues paid last year, T-shirt and Hat sales, a generous donation from the Town of Alton, a kind donation from the Parish family at the 50th reunion, proceeds from the 50/50 raffle at the 50th reunion as well as reduced water testing costs (the state is now assuming the cost of some testing), and a reduction in postage and printing costs. Other expenses included membership fee for the NH Lakes Association, website registration, costs for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, payment for Milfoil certification class for Cliff & Kate Brown as well as equipment for harvesting Milfoil, a donation to the Loon Society and a charge for bank checks. Linda noted that in FY2017, HMLA will be reducing their contribution to the NH Lakes Association. It was also noted by Bill Mannion that the Town of Barnstead declined to contribute to the Association after receiving a letter last fall, yet Alton has supported the Association for several years. He encouraged Barnstead residents to speak to the Barnstead Board of Selectmen and ask for more support. In summary, Linda reported that the treasury is sound and that there is an adequate reserve in the event there is a need for heightened treatment of invasive species or other lake-associated issues. Debbie Fedorchak made a motion to accept the treasury report as presented, seconded by Nina Kelly, 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 2017 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 of 2016, dues increased to \$15 per year and may be mailed to Linda Bramante, 118 North Barnstead Road, Center Barnstead, NH 03225 (See Dues Form below). Please be sure to include your Halfmoon address, mailing address, and most importantly, your email address.

LAKE REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

Kate Brown reported that she emailed all neighborhood representatives in late May with a copy of the most recent database. She has received updates from several reps and has been updating the email and address database accordingly. However, there have been several properties transferred this year 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 once again 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 has been heading up a team of volunteers who are responsible for monitoring lake water for quality. In addition to Mike, team members include Frank Bramante, Jim Rye, Paul Hernsom, and John Wheeler all of whom put in a lot of time and effort to assure our lake water is of the highest quality and to monitor for any changes that may be hazardous to fish, wildlife and humans. We are grateful for this group of dedicated monitors and for all the hard work they do

Normal monthly tests are typically conducted in June, July & August and involve taking samples for: Chlorophyll-a, total phosphorus, conductivity, pH, alkalinity, turbidity, chloride, E. coli. However, Mike reported that over the past few years Halfmoon Lake “water” testing has morphed into several more areas of monitoring. They now do a Transparency test using the Secchi Disk and along with results going to DES, they submit the results to the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) as part of the Secchi Dip-In project. (They collect data from all over the world). Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Profiling are now on the monthly list of sampling. In addition, Cyanobacteria sampling has also been added to our samples taken, twice a month for June through August (September if possible). In the winter and spring, the team participates in the ICE-IN /ICE-OUT program where we notify DES the date of complete ice on lake and ice out of lake. Once a year, a fish is frozen and submitted to the Volunteer Mercury fish program last fall. Mike has already submitted a fish for 2017, and is awaiting a report.

All of this all comes with a great amount of paper work supplied by DES, including time sheets for each tester, which Mike usually files with DES at end of season. Mike has served the lake very well and been extremely diligent in keeping on schedule, delivering samples, and maintaining files. However, he would like to turn the baton over to someone new and announced at the meeting that his last year of heading up the testing will be 2018. He did offer to stay on to help when he is available.

The Association is now looking for volunteers who are willing to take on this very important and vital responsibility. If you are willing to serve, please contact Mike at nhcottage89@tds.net. This is a great opportunity to give back to the lake.

On behalf of all our members, the Board would like to sincerely thank Mike for his dedication and hard work. A big round of applause was given by members to acknowledge Mike for his hard and conscientious efforts.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING: Mike has received two new volunteers for assisting with water testing which should provide more than enough to cover testing. New members are Rick Perkins and Jay Macken. In addition, the June water test result have been received I received and will be posted on the website (www.halfmoonlakenh.org). One finding to keep an eye on was a higher level than previous years of

E.coli in several areas of the lake. Mike contacted Sara Steiner and she reported that there have been a lot of high bacteria readings throughout the State and suspects that it is probably a result of all the runoff this year so far. Samples will be taken again this month and we are hoping for lower numbers.

MILFOIL UPDATE

Linda Bramante reported that several large fragments have been found recently floating in the cove or on the shoreline, one of which was approximately 5 feet long. 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. She did find two fragments and said she would come back in a week or two to check again. In the meantime, Mike and Debbie Fedorchak found 'the mother plant' with the use of their fish finder on their pontoon boat. They placed a red marker at the spot and notified Amy who scheduled state divers to come and pick. The Fedorchaks also found a similar spike from the bottom of the lake off of Crescent Drive. They went by the area twice and couldn't identify the spot again, so they will go out again and look for it.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING: Since the meeting, two state divers came out on Friday, July 14, and pulled two bags full of Milfoil that were found around the area of the marker. Deb Fedorchak and several other neighbors have been scouting the cove since and retrieving fragments that typically appear after a weed pulling activity. Divers will check the area in a week or two to remove any remaining Milfoil and make sure that there are no other areas that are infested. The marker is still in place and we ask that boaters please avoid that area.

During the meeting, Steve Adams mentioned that with the proliferation of Milfoil in New Hampshire lakes, the State has established passed a new regulation: House Bill 1589 - the 'Clean & Drain' bill - is now law. With this law, all boaters in New Hampshire are now required to clean off **all** aquatic vegetation - native and invasive - from the outside of their boat and trailer. Boaters are also required to drain their boat every time they exit a waterbody, helping to prevent aquatic invasive plants and animals from "hitchhiking" from one waterbody to another. Fines will be imposed if a boater does not comply with this new law.

Steve suggested that Halfmoon Lake change the verbiage on the signs currently posted at the boat ramps. The signs currently read that 'This lake is infested with invasive species.' He believes that this could be a disincentive for boaters to clean their trailers or boats as the sign implies the lake is already infested. He suggested that we follow the message in signs at Lake Winnepesaukee which indicate that "This Lake has an active invasive weed control program in place. Please clean and drain your boat prior to launch to prevent any introduction of invasive species.' The Association agreed to investigate this possibility.

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 two years ago. For the second year in a row, the loons successfully mated and over the July 4th weekend, two chicks hatched. The chicks immediately took to the water and the family has now abandoned the nest (which was located off Rustic Shores). They seem to have settled in the cove and can be seen swimming close to their parents. It is a wonderful sight to see, but what is most troubling are the intruders...not natural predators, but boaters. There have been several reports of boats with skiers and tubers driving between the parents and chicks as well as pontoon boats motoring very near to the family to get a closer look. We urgently ask that everyone on

the water keep a careful eye out for the loon family and don't to approach them or disturb their feeding area. We appreciate your cooperation.

New Business

LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Loon Preservation Committee of New Hampshire was created in 1975 in response to concerns about a dramatically declining loon population and the effects of human activities on loons. LPC's mission is to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the larger natural world. The Committee has been very involved in our loon nest project. They not only trained our volunteers on how to build and place the net, but they have come out to the lake to check on the family of loons. Thanks to all their support, the Board recommended a \$50 donation. A motion was made by Clare Bolster to donate \$50 to the Loon Preservation Committee. This was seconded by Ethel McConaghy.

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 – Pot Luck Picnic at Camp Mi-Te-Na

Last year's 50th celebration was such a success that the HMLA has decided to make it an annual tradition. On Saturday, August 26th at Camp Mi-Te-Na from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please mark your calendar. We will start with an Association meeting, possibly with a speaker (to be announced) and follow with a barbeque of hot dogs and hamburgers generously provided by the YMCA camp. Each family is asked to bring a side dish or dessert. As with last year, the camp will open up their facilities so there will be games, basketball, three-way tug-of-war, climbing wall and more. Come and enjoy the fun and meet your neighbors. More information to come.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ellen Courtney, seconded by Dean Finethy, voted on unanimously by members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Brown
HMLA Secretary

HMLA OFFICERS / CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bill Mannion, President 603-776-2362
John Wheeler, Vice President 603-472-3228
Linda Bramante, Treasurer 603-776-0486
Kate Brown, Secretary 978-376-9598

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goatroper144@yahoo.com
lbramante118@gmail.com
katebrown@browntech.com

Halfmoon Lake Association Dues for 2017 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".