

**Halfmoon Lake Association Annual August 2019 Meeting
And BBQ Picnic
Camp Mi-Te-Na Dining Hall, 10 AM, Saturday, August 24, 2019**

On August 24, 2019 the second annual meeting for the 53rd year since the founding of the Halfmoon Lake Association (HMLA) was called to order by President, Bill Mannion at 10:11 am. There were no new residents at the meeting. As part of a fundraiser for the Association, Nina Kelly oversaw apparel sales of HMLA T-shirts and Hats.

Bill began the meeting by thanking Camp Mi-Te-Na, Matt Hanscom, and his staff for hosting our meeting. He then made the introduction of our officers, President Bill Mannion, VP John Wheeler, Treasurer Linda Bramante, and the new Secretary Shelly Lalos.

Once all the introductions were completed, Bill introduced our guest speaker, Ed Neister, Chair of the Barnstead Milfoil Committee. For many years Ed's mission has been to eradicate milfoil in the Town of Barnstead.

Ed completed his presentation with a Q & A session with quite a few questions from concerned members regarding milfoil and other species and how we can work together in the future to help eradicate it.

Bill presented a T-Shirt to Ed for taking the time to come present and educate us in Milfoil.

The Secretary's Report was pre-distributed prior to the meeting. There were no questions regarding the Secretary's Report. Dugie motioned to accept the Secretary's Report as presented, seconded by Jane Forca. Members voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer, Linda Bramante presented the Treasurer's Report and dues reminder. She reminded us that the dues were going to increase from \$15 and \$20 starting next year. Linda went over the Financial Report broken down in detail by various items. Expenses were more than revenue so far this year. The reason for that is two road associations had not paid their dues yet. South Shore Drive who had not had their meeting yet and Linda had not received Fernhill's dues. She stated that we are looking to receive the donation from the Town of Alton after the water testing is completed in August and the results have been received. An invoice is submitted to Alton in the fall. T-Shirt sales have helped immensely with increasing revenues. Bill mentioned that Town of Barnstead does not give donation. A motion to accept The Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Bill O'Neil and seconded by Guy Leone. Members voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Old Business

There were no updates needed for Lake Representatives.

N Barnstead Road Ramp Committee Update – Frank requested Bill to present the boat ramp update. Bill asked what people were here from ramp committee. Frank Bramante, Paul Hersom, and Russell Seguin announced themselves.

Updates were given on the continued degrading condition of the boat ramp and whether the ramp committee were able to work with the existing owners of the ramp to come to an agreement on how to proceed with upgrading the boat ramp conditions. Unfortunately, one of the owners of the ramp has yet to respond to the committee. There is hope that they will be able to present some progress by the next bi-annual meeting.

New Business

Tom Bennett questioned whether anyone was aware there is a movement to put a water treatment plant at the site on North Barnstead Road where our weir is. He stated that he heard from a source that Locke Lake is looking into it. Bill asked, “are you stating that Mr. Norris is thinking of selling that land?” He suggested that Tom call Frank C. of Pennichuck Water to verify this. Linda Bramante stated that the town of Barnstead must know about this as they would be involved and that the water protection act states that you cannot build within 50ft of the shore, therefore it is unlikely that this would happen. Also, you cannot do anything on those 2 pieces of land as they are unbuildable, thereby making them are useless. Bill asked Tom Bennet to volunteer to investigate this.

Frank Bennett stated he heard through the grapevine that Locke Lake had the boards taken out of the dam for about ½ foot to increase the height of the lake. Is that controlled by state? Linda said they tried to do this last year and the state made them take it down. They came to us and asked us if we would agree to allow them to install another board in their dam and we stated “absolutely no” that they could not. Back in 1967 when the weir was originally constructed, the agreement was that Half Moon Lake would be one inch higher than Locke Lake. Linda stated that Locke has a new board of directors.

Paul Hersom stated there are rumors that Pennichuck have put a lot of stakes on Crescent Drive. There are survey stakes on South Shore Drive are relative to Pennichuck Water. He was concerned on what they might be planning and wanted to make sure it was not going to impact the lake and members wells. Linda stated that she has Pennichuck Water. There are so many new homes on Locke Lake and the impact has been draining the aquifer. This could impact us as well if you have a well. Locke Lake has requested to connect into the town water and the town said no.

Frank Bramante reported that the tree at the boat ramp was removed without incident after receiving three bids. He stated that he took the lowest bid which left a balance of \$900. The Association had previously voted and unanimously accepted the allowance of \$1500.00 for removal of the tree. Since there are funds left over, Frank B. requested that the balance be used to put toward fixing the boat ramp so that members could get their boats out this year. Bill O'Neil motioned to allow the remaining funds to be used to fix the boat ramp this year. The motion was seconded by Rob Hadley. The membership voted unanimously.

Minutes on Web Site - Linda pointed out that the minutes being put on the web site should be taken down. We have financial information included in the minutes and we should not have financial information on the web site for anyone to view. After much discussion, it was decided to create two sets of minutes, one that could be put on the web site and another for members to have access to upon request. Rob Hadley stated we should only send emails to dues paying members. Peter Bolster stated that they have all their info on Condo Alley, a General Website and you need a password to get into it. The public cannot get into it. Peter B. stated that he would investigate the Condo Alley Platform to see if it would be something our association would be interested in. Peter Bolster motioned to show our public minutes containing action items and info that the board feels the need to be made to the general membership and not include any financial information. The motion was seconded by Frank Bramante. The membership votes unanimously.

Linda requested Bill Mannion to retract the June 2019 meeting minutes from the web site.

Visiting boat traffic update - John Wheeler reported that he counted 60 boats that have been put in the lake stating that there was an unusual amount on the weekends. Also, people were continuously putting boats in and bringing them out. He noticed that we are getting bigger boats on the lake.

Reminder of good boating practices – It was suggested we need to put a chart at the boat launch showing “counterclockwise” traffic on the lake.

Wake surfing – It was asked if we should we try to restrict wake surfing to the main part of the lake. The State of NH is looking into this issue.

Water Quality/Testing Results Update : Guy presented that the team (Guy Leone, Frank Bramante, Mike Fedorchak, & John Wheeler). He showed a chart to help with his presentation.

Numbers are only for quality of water in the lake and various tributaries of the lake. The numbers are for June and July. August numbers are not available yet. Numbers alone are meaningless, and he did the chart to help show their use.

Contaminants are vegetation which is chlorophyll. The determining factor is how much we have in our lake and not where it is located. Overall, the lake is doing well. We were a little higher in June and July, but well below the state set standards. Second, are the beaches. We have five beaches on our lake, however only four of them are measured. We test Boys Camp, and Hollywood Beach while Dalton, and Crescent Beaches are tested by Locke Lake Colony.

Guy explained that they go out into the woods to get samples for the tributaries. The amount of contaminant varies from month to month. Less rain, less to work with. Inlets were not running as well because of less rain. Phosphorus levels are the most important to look at. It helps grow vegetation like milfoil, etc. The state level is 40. We are getting into a dangerous area. We checked in the middle of the lake which is very important. June was 10 and July was 18. The numbers are increasing, however not a real problem area yet. Guy calls it a red flag.

Rob Hadley asked about any remediation. Bill stated that the decaying of vegetation gives off phosphorus and absorbs oxygen. The only sources we can have impact on are septic systems and runoffs from fertilizers. Also, do not take baths with soap in the lake. Please only purchase fertilizer that contain zero phosphorous. Peter Bolster stated that you cannot use fertilizer within 50 ft of the lake.

Guy Leone went on to explain about another issue that like many other lakes has popped up in our lake: Cyanobacteria – Common in every lake. It only becomes a problem when it blooms and depending on what species. They give off a phosphorescence. When in bloom they give off toxins – liver and neuro toxins. Dogs and people with nerve problems should avoid these. Our lake has these strings across the surface with neon green and purple color. When he went along Varney Shore, he saw florescent green and he brought samples of water to NH DES and it showed that the number was above the standard. NH DES provided Guy with “red notices” to be posted. He posted six flyers around the lake. He then spoke to Shelly who sent an email out to all of you. The next day he went out and saw nothing. He took two more samples to bring to the state. They were crystal clear, and the state looked at them and saw nothing as well. However, someone had called them and said they had a bloom, so the state did not take down the advisory.

An advisory is a warning. It is your determination whether to go into the water or not, but if you are exposed it could cause problems. Only the blue green scum is the part you do not want to be exposed to. You should at least take a shower except if you use lake water as your sole water source.

The advisories will be up for a week because they do not have the manpower to take them down that quickly. The Cyanobacteria can move around the lake within hours. A member stated that on Tuesday, she saw the blueish film. She took a shower immediately. On Wednesday, after the rainstorm she did not see it anymore. Another member questioned who to call if we see a bloom. Guy gave that info to the members.

Bill thanked Guy and his team.

Milfoil update – Linda stated she spoke with Ed Niester on the way out after his presentation and the plan right now is to go out sometime next week with the special light. They will go out between 8:30-9pm to be able to see the bottom of our lake. If milfoil is found, GPS coordinates will be tagged to identify the location so a diver could come back and remove the milfoil subsequently. If someone wants to come along on the boat to let her know as there are only so many places because you must be in the front where the light is to see anything.

Loon activity update – This is the fifth year of the Half Moon Lake Loon Nest Project. The nest was put out in the spring; however, we were not successful for fostering new babies. The good news is there is no shortage of loons on the lake. We will try again next year.

E-mail List - There was no other new business, however Bill stated that Linda and Shelly have worked so hard on the e-mail list. He then passed it off to Linda.

Linda explained that many of the e-mails were incorrect or missing that were provided to Shelly. Shelly took the time to create a new listing that originally had 140 but now have over 200 or so e-mail addresses. What we plan on doing this fall is to take the list and create address listings with lot numbers. Her thought is that once we have that list completed, we will send people an e-mail showing number of dues we collected over the 10 years from you. That way we can square up with everybody.

Donation Thanks -Matt from YMCA Camp Mi-Te-Na indicated that he used the donation we as an association donated in 2018 toward a student scholarship. It was given to a young man; Luca and he wrote a thank you letter. Matt read the heart-felt letter to the membership. Much Thanks to Camp Mi-Te-Na, Matt, and staff

Boat Parade date/ time – The boat parade is scheduled for Saturday, August 31st with the rain date on Sunday. Meet at the YMCA Camp at sundown. We hope for your participation in the parade or as a spectator.

Date and location for 2020 July meeting: The date for the 2020 June meeting will be Saturday, June 27, 2020. We have confirmed the second Bi-Annual Meeting is to take place on Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 10AM at Camp Mi-Te-Na.

Motioned to end the membership meeting by Gene Leblanc and Guy Leone seconded. The membership voted and accepted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Lalos, Secretary

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