



HALFMOON LAKE ASSOCIATION
SECRETARY'S REPORT Minutes June 29, 2019
Meeting

On June 29, 2019 the first annual meeting for the 53rd year since the founding of the Halfmoon Lake Association (HMLA) was called to order at 9:05 am by President Bill Mannion with approximately 27 households and guests present. In keeping with the recent tradition of holding HMLA meetings at different locations around the lake, this year's meeting was hosted by Fernhill Association, thanks to the association's president Clare Bolster. However, due to impending rain, it was relocated from the beach to the nearby storage shed.

Bill began the meeting by introducing the Officers and welcoming any new members. Although no new residents were in attendance, there have been several lake-front home sales since the last meeting in August 2018. Welcome letters have been sent to new homeowners, and we sincerely hope that they will be present at the August meeting. If you know of a new neighbor that, please contact Shelly Lalos at shelly.lalos@gmail.com to pass along contact information.

On behalf of HMLA, Bill expressed our thanks to Peter Bolster (representing wife Clare) for the accommodations. Peter briefly explained how Fernhill Beach, located on the western shore of the lake, was organized. The beach area is owned by two entities: 1. The most southern side is occupied by Fernhill Association which is comprised of residents of approximately 40 homes on Stonehill Road, Water Road, Prospect Mountain Road, and Hollywood Beach Road, and 2. Fernhill Colony, to the north, which owns five seasonal cottages on the lake front.

President Bill Mannion reminded members that they had already received copies of the August 2018 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 Guy Leone, members voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer, Linda Bramante, presented the comparative HMLA Income Statement reporting that the ending cash balance for 2018 was \$14,394.53, up from the prior year by \$1,731.18. This was due in part to T-shirt and hat sales of \$876.00, much of which came from sales at the Fernhill Colony Ice Cream Store and the YMCA Camp Store, both of which did a great job selling HMLA apparel items and will continue to do so in 2019. Other income was generated from membership fees (\$2,175.00), a \$250.00 donation from the Town of Alton, and a \$300.00 donation from the Brown family. Expenses included a membership fee for the NH Lakes Association, website domain registration, postage, printing, three water tests, purchase of apparel items, other supplies, and a gift to Mike Fedorchak for his long service heading up the water committee. As of June 29, 2019, the Association has collected \$300.00 in member dues. However, individual neighborhood associations such as Rustic Shores, South Shore Drive and Fernhill pay their dues after their respective association meetings in July 2019, which will be reflected in the August report. In addition, Bill Mannion explained that the website domain registration lapsed over the winter and re-registered in the spring. In doing so, the website host recognized it as a new registration and extended a three-year discounted rate. Linda also noted that the Income Statement now includes a list of assets held by HMLA including supplies, inventory of apparel items, and the value of the North Barnstead Road Weir (dam) totaling \$4,575. The full report provided at the meeting is attached. There was a subsequent discussion regarding Milfoil management and replacement of volunteer divers (please refer to Milfoil Update for a summary). Ray Valas made a motion to accept the treasury report as presented, seconded by Ethel McConaghy, and voted on unanimously by members.

OLD BUSINESS

RAMP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Ramp Committee was assembled at the June 2018 meeting to explore various issues related to the boat ramp on North Barnstead Road, most importantly its deteriorating condition. Current members include Frank Bramante, Paul Hersom, Jean LeBlanc and Russ Sequin.

Frank Bramante reported on the progress of the committee. The first step was to send letter to Jim Norris, the recorded owner of the ramp, in the fall of 2018 to acknowledge his concerns about the boat ramp, and to inform him that the Ramp Committee is taking his suggestions under advisement and will follow-up with additional thoughts. Mr. Norris has not yet replied to the letter.

Frank noted that the ramp has continued to erode and two trees adjacent to the ramp are in danger of falling. He also noted that dirt and silt has built up around the dam/weir wall (which is owned by HMLA).

Since the last meeting, Frank has contacted engineering firms and an excavation company to get a sense of costs for fixing the ramp. The challenge he faced was that most companies were hesitant to provide an estimate without the owner's permission. He provided copies of two design and permit proposals as a point of reference.

A question was raised about our legal rights of access since lake-front owners have been using the ramp for many years. There was also a discussion about the option of purchasing or leasing the ramp. It was noted that an offer was made 15 years ago to the previous owner but was not accepted. Other discussion focused on the use of the public boat ramp off Route 28. Bill Mannion explained why this was not a practical or cost-effective option.

Several other ideas were discussed, at which point a question was raised as to why Mr. Norris has not been approached directly so the Association can better understand where he is coming from before spending any more time on getting estimates or proposing solutions. Frank stated that the committee planned to contact Mr. Norris and have a discussion with him regarding his requirements and a next course of action.

It was also noted that part of the ramp falls within the surveyed lot lines of the Lalos property. Peter Bolster agreed to conduct an informal Title Search to clarify ownership as a next step.

The discussion then turned to the subject of the decaying trees which are at risk of falling over the ramp or road. The town has already been contacted and the road agent has informed the Association that the trees are not on town property. The trees are on the Lalos property and Shelly Lalos would like to have an insured tree company do the work. Paul Hersom made a motion to help fund the cost of taking the trees down. Ethel McConaghy seconded. After discussing the motion, the members agreed to allocate up to \$1,500.00 toward tree removal. Shelly Lalos is to get estimates, take the most reasonable, and contract directly with the tree company. If the cost is over \$1,500.00, Shelly Lalos will pay the difference. Peter Bolster made a motion to accept the agreed amount, Guy Leone seconded it, and the membership voted unanimously.

DUES REMINDER

If you have not yet paid your 2019 dues either directly to the Association or to your Neighborhood Association, please do so as soon as possible. Your contributions go a long way to offset the costs of water testing, invasive species removal, and other important initiatives. Dues for 2019 are only \$15 per year. If you are a 'nonneighborhood association' member, please mail your dues to Linda Bramante, 118 North Barnstead Road, Center Barnstead, 03225. Otherwise, contact your neighborhood representative.

LAKE REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

New reps include Rebecca Olive for South Shore Drive, Bill O'Neil for O'Neil Drive and Varney Lane; Ethel McConaghy for New Castle, Kent Lane, and Tamworth Trail. A complete list of representatives may be found on the HMLA website www.halfmoonlakenh.org.

T-SHIRT/CAP SALES AT CAMP MI-TI-NA

Last summer, the YMCA Camp agreed to place our Halfmoon Lake T-shirts and caps in their camp store. Thanks to Linda Bramante for delivering supply to the camp. And a huge thank you to the Camp and campers for their interest in our apparel. They completely sold out and raised over \$XXX.XX. We have already replenished their supply for this summer season of campers.

NEW BUSINESS

HMLA SECRETARY POSITION

Regrettably, Kate and Cliff Brown have moved out of state to be closer to their family, leaving the secretary position open. Bill Mannion asked if anyone was willing to step up and finish out the season until Officer Elections are held at the August meeting. It was greatly appreciated when Shelly Lalos, of North Barnstead Road, stepped forward and readily agreed to take the position. Welcome Shelly, we are happy to have you on board. See below for contact information on all Board members.

PROPOSED DUES INCREASE

Linda Bramante thanked the neighborhood associations for their diligence in collecting dues and sending them in as a single check. Linda also made a motion that dues be increased from \$15.00/household/year to \$20.00 beginning in 2020 to help support the Association and adjust for rising costs. Kathy Daggart seconded the motion, and the membership voted unanimously to accept.

DONATIONS

The YMCA Camp Me-Ti-Na has been a wonderful neighbor on the lake over the years. They have allowed us to use their dining hall for our August meetings for many years. And for the past three years, they have hosted our PotLuck Picnic following the meeting with a barbeque, beverages, and access to their activities. Last year they did an awesome job selling HMLA apparel items. In appreciation for all they do, the Association like to send a donation to the camp. Debbie Fedorchak made a motion to send \$200 to the YMCA camp to be used at their discretion. Ray Ballard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously among the membership.

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

Guy Leone, the new chairman of the Water Committee, explained the protocols and procedures for assuring that our lake water is safe for recreational use and the wildlife that live in and around it. Three times during the summer, multiple water samples are taken from the lake and areas of feeding tributaries and sent to the State lab for analysis. They test for algae, bacteria, chlorophyll as a measurement. Contamination with bacteria is measured using E. coli, a bacteria found in animal and human excrement. Other contaminants measured are electrolytes, phosphorus, and chloride. These are nutrients for algae and their presence is partly due to water runoff and treatment of our roads. At the time of the meeting, the June results were just in. Since it was so early in the season, Guy summarized the trends from 2018 and the impact it has on our lake. There has been a definite improvement in the amount of chlorophyll as compared to other years. It is less than the State median and threshold. Why is this important? Chlorophyll gives an indication of algae growth. Every water body has algae, but too much algae can result in decreased oxygen which supports fish life. There has also been a great improvement in the levels of E.coli which was a problem a few years back. There has however, been a slight worsening in phosphorus and chloride levels. Values still remain around the state median. The key is to keep an eye on the

trends. Last year the levels were good, but the most recent June test is borderline. This is most likely caused by the cyanobacteria blooms we had last August due to the hot weather and other nutrients in the water. What can resident do to minimize the impact on our lake: 1. Be sure to use non-phosphorous fertilizer. The best fertilizer of all is lake water. 2. Have your septic system checked to be sure it is operating properly, and 3. Do not remove brush, trees or plants along the lake front that act as a barrier to contaminants.

STORMWATER RUNOFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Bill Mannion informed the membership that the Lake Winnepesaukee Association is providing a device for how to deal with storm runoff. You can contact Bill for more information or send an email to Pat Tarpey ptarpey@winnepesaukee.org.

MILFOIL UPDATE

Bill Mannion acknowledged the tremendous efforts of Debbie Fedorchak and Linda Bramante in surveying the lake for Milfoil infestation. Debbie reported that on a recent kayak survey, she found Milfoil in the cove. The question came up about replacing the volunteer divers who have moved away from the lake. State divers are available to us, as long as we can mark the areas of growth. Linda Bramante noted that Suncook Lake now has a pontoon boat with underwater lights and that the Center Barnstead Milfoil Committee has plans to bring it into Halfmoon Lake to be able to search more accurately and then hire divers.

LOON NEST UPDATE

This marks year 4 of Halfmoon Lake's Loon Nest project. Year 2 and 3 were successful with a pair of loons nesting and hatching two chicks. Regrettably, this year the loon, located in the cove off Rustic Shores, went in a little late. Even though a pair of loons took notice and circled the platform for a couple of weeks, for some reason they did not choose it for their nest. A representative from the NH Loon Preservation Society informed us that, for some reason, the loons are staying at the ocean later this year and not migrating inland to the lakes. We will put the nest out next year and hopefully have more success. We now have a camera mounted on the nest, so hopefully next year we can bring you live action!

BOATING ACTIVITY/SAFETY

John Wheeler reported that fishing boats on the lake have been more active this year than most. As of the date of the meeting, He counted more than 52 craft.

All members were encouraged to use safe boating practices. For many years, Halfmoon Lake has 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 & LABOR DAY BOAT PARADE

The exact date for the second annual HMLA meeting is still to be determined. We will feature a guest speaker, Ed Niester, chairman of the Barnstead Milfoil Committee. It will again include a special social event at Camp Me-Ti-Na. What is fast becoming an annual tradition, we will once again have a pot-luck picnic and GGQ on the campgrounds with facilities for lots of activities. This is a phenomenal gift and we are very grateful to the Camp and their staff.

The Boat Parade is scheduled for Saturday, August 31 with rain date on Sunday. Meet by the YMCA camp at sundown. WE hope you will participate or be a loud spectator.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly Lalos, Secretary

HMLA OFFICERS / CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bill Mannion, President	603-776-2362
John Wheeler, Vice President	603-472-3228
Linda Bramante, Treasurer	603-776-0486
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