

The HRA held the Spring business Meeting - June 3, 2006

A BIG THANKS TO ALL of you involved in working through the fall and winter on upcoming events and the Lake Oversight Committee. For those of you helping raise our membership, for helping raise awareness, for making and distributing copies of New Members Packets. To Rose & Jim Kenney for refreshments this year. To those that helped clean up the flood debris in the South Basin in May and to Town of Holland, and Tasse Fuel for the disposal of that debris. Another big Thanks for volunteers selling tickets to fund raising events, for writing Senator Brewer and State Rep Smola in support of Hamilton Reservoir. Your Involvement is Important and Appreciated – Thank you

PIG ROAST 2006 – Sat. July 29th Rain or Shine - Holland Rod & Gun Club, off Mashapaug Rd., Holland, MA. **3 pm, dinner at 4 pm** – Great Food, Dancing, Raffle Gifts & 50-50 Raffle – **FUN FOR ALL - Tickets** (\$15 adult and \$6 child) are available from any HRA Fundraising Volunteer - or by calling **Bev Aube at 413 245 0194**. Join in to raise funds for the preservation of Hamilton Reservoir and have some fun. Invite your friends & family – Please help by attending or making a donation.

POKER RUN –2nd Annual - Sat. Sept. 16th (rain date Sept. 17th) - Starts at PJ's, Holland. 9 am Call Bev 413 245 0194 or Chris 413 245 3666 for advance tickets. Ride will start at 10 am. Dinner will be served at the end of run. Prize for best hand, 50-50 raffle and more. T-shirts for sale at the run. (Motorcycles & cars invited).

TREASURER - Tom Sargent reported that the Save the Lake fund received \$1055.00 from fundraising and donations.

MEMBERSHIP - Dave Sears, chairman, suggested that HRA annual dues be increased to \$35.00. Compared with other lake associations our annual fee is very low. After some discussion it was moved and approved to raise membership to \$35.00 beginning in 2007. Dave stressed the importance of soliciting new members. We need to include everyone in Holland – not just those who own property on the lake.

All newsletter mailings go to home addresses and meeting dates are posted on the web site. To reach more people, a suggestion was made that we hand-deliver a flyer before the next meeting or event telling what the HRA is doing and why it is so important to join (each member could deliver to people on his/her street).

Earl Johnson, Holland Selectman, said postcards are sent out to Holland property owners about 2 weeks before their annual meeting. Possibly next year they could include a notice of the next HRA meeting on that postcard. Including a note with tax bills is probably not feasible.

NEED YOUR email addresses – We'd like to know if you'd prefer HRA information via email. Contact Dave Sears – dsears@charter.net - Please include your email on your membership form.

WANT TO HELP WITH MEMBERSHIP? CONTACT DAVE SEARS 413 245 0905 or dsears@charter.net

COLAP (Congress of Lakes and Ponds) - Marti Tabb said COLAP meets twice yearly, in January and September (on Saturdays). She said meetings are very informative because members from many associations like ours, with the same goals, share information. The function of COLAP is to find ways to maintain & preserve the state's lakes and ponds. Mary Sears & Agnes Gallerani volunteered to participate.

LAKE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - Lynn Arnold explained to new members that the lake oversight committee is made up of town board members (Selectmen, Conservation, Planning, Zoning, and Health) as well as the Police Department and HRA members. The committee works to co-ordinate efforts for lake maintenance.

The Lake Oversight Committee focused on two things this year. One was to try to write for grants to fund lake conservation projects. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission grant was approved. The approximately \$27,000, will be used to pay for a more current engineering study to point out the most urgent projects to preserve the lake. She said most grants require a match, either in money or labor. For this grant, the Town will provide labor to satisfy that requirement. For most grants received, a money match will be necessary. As we move forward with this project, the smaller grant money received will fund preliminary projects, paving the way for the larger grants and projects.

The second project involved changing the Town by-laws regarding dock removal. Under the new by-law - the rules are clearer, more enforceable and serious fines can be levied. Docks must be removed by the end of October and not returned to the lake until April. All docks must be clearly identified and after seven days of warning, a fine of \$100/day will apply. There are a few permanent docks that were installed before 1985 to which these rules will not apply. Also, the placement of docks cannot impinge on a neighbor's property. These changes will be voted on at a public hearing and then must be approved by the State Attorney General.

FUNDRAISING - Bev Aube, chairman reported last year's Pig Roast was a great success, raising over \$1000. The poker run was fun and created awareness. The HRA is going to have another one this year, the date will be Sept. 16th with rain date Sept. 17th. Poker Run participants (cars allowed) followed a planned route and pick up cards for their poker hand at each stop. At the last stop dinner is provided and a prize for the best hand was awarded.

A suggestion was made to sell more than one hand to each participant. Another suggestion was to have a similar event but have the route planned on the lake and use boats to travel from site to site (first stop has clue to next, etc.)

Other events - in an effort to promote the awareness of lake preservation in Town of Holland, next year the children from the Holland Elementary School will be asked to create a poster showing the lake, why it is important, etc. The HRA will award prizes to the winner of each grade.

Volunteers willing to work with Fundraising, please contact Bev 413 245 0194.

WALES BULK STATION - Holland has an arrangement with the town of Wales to use their transfer station for bulk items. There is a list of allowable items and the fees to dispose of them. Any Holland property owner can use the transfer station but must show proof of ownership (copy of tax bill, etc.). The station is open on Wednesday night and Saturday morning. In return, the Wales residents can use the Holland brush dump.

NEW BUSINESS

Weed Treatment for Milfoil – Lycott Environment treated the lake for Milfoil on June 14th. Notifications were posted around town and on cable channel 15. The HRA paid for Union, CT portion of the treatment.

Town of Holland Updates –

Assessment of Properties - Selectman Earl Johnson reported that Holland is currently conducting a state mandated ten year revaluation of all properties in town. Vision Appraisal representatives will be visiting home owners and will leave two notices and make appointments for owners who are not available when they visit. It is important to allow them access because if not they will have to estimate values.

Virtual Town Hall - Earl announced a contract has been signed for a "Virtual Town Hall". HRA announcements and information could be included on their web site.

Comments/Questions/Discussions - Selectman Jim Wettlaufer said the town is limited to a 2 ½ % raise in the budget each year. The expansion of the school budget exceeds that annually, limiting funds for other services the town provides such as road care, police and fire protection. The town is growing and will continue to grow. He discussed debt exclusion which was voted on and passed by the town .

Jim said many rumors have been circulating regarding the flood last October. One was that the Town of Union opened their dam without notice adding to the amount of water – NOT TRUE. The main reason for the flood was the lack of an accurate forecast – and 11” of rain over a short period of time.

Carolyn Reardon announced an open house celebration of the Holland Sr Center on June 25 @ 2PM.

NON PROFIT status for the HRA – Chris McCooe asked Carolyn Reardon to speak to HRA on Non Profit Organizations. Carolyn was involved in the process obtaining non-profit status for the Senior Center making their fund raising efforts more effective. She said if the HRA wants to sponsor large fund raising events, non-profit status is necessary. To begin the process, HRA needs to apply for non-profit status with Internal Revenue; then register with the Secretary of State as a non-profit corporation; and obtain a Federal tax number to use for raising funds. Both Federal and Commonwealth require fees to apply. The procedure takes about 6 months. Ms. Reardon estimated the overall cost to be less than \$1500.00. She said substantial paperwork is necessary - Non-profit status would give the organization a new image – not just as existing for people on the lake. In the end the tax liability to the organization is less.

The HRA voted authorizing the Board to spend up to \$2000 to obtain NON PROFIT status for HRA. Carolyn met with the board after the meeting to begin the processes.

WATER TESTING - Lycott Engineering will provide information and containers for Water Testing at the next HRA meeting August 26th. The cost is \$90 for complete water testing and \$40 for bacteria testing. Anyone requiring testing before that can call Lycott 508 765 0101 directly or check the Massachusetts COLAP web site for more information. www.macolap.org

Membership Dues will be \$35 in 2007 (voted and approved at June meeting) – If your '06 membership is due, send to the PO address on the membership form. If address changes are necessary, please let us know.

Save the Date – Next HRA meeting - August 26, 2006 - 8:30 for refreshments and 9 am for the Business meeting – Holland Elementary School.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Holland Police – 413 245 0117 General
Emergency – 411 or 413 245 7222

Holland Town Hall 413 245 7108
Holland Town Barn 413 245 3276

HRA Web Site
www.hamiltonreservoir.com

State of Mass Government Web Site
www.mass.gov.org

State Senator Brewer
stephenbrewer@senate.state.ma.us
Room 109 B – State House
Boston, MA 02133 tel. 617 722 1540

State Rep. Todd Smola
rep.toddsbola@hou.state.ma.us
Room 156 – State House
Boston, MA 02133 Tel. 617 722 2240

HOTLINE for DEP 800 462 0444 – email - depinfo@state.ma.us MA COLAP - www.macolap.org

**Complete Boat Regulations available on www.hamiltonreservoir.com and in the Kiosks around town.
SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER – please pass onto your New neighbors**

- * Traffic flow on lake is counter clockwise
- * No child under 16 may operate powerboat w/o license or an adult present
- * No child under 16 may operate a jet ski at all
- * No open liquor in any boat
- * Max of 2 people towed (tubes or skis) at one time behind a boat
- * Power Craft speed limit is headway speed or 5 mph at ½ hr. before sunset until ½ hr. before sunrise
- * Power boat speed is limited to under 10 mph until 11 AM on Sat., Sun., & Holidays thru Labor Day
- * Safe speed & yield the right of way to un-powered boats
- * All power boats w/skiers or other tows must operate at least 150 feet from any shoreline
- * No power craft may operate at greater than 5 mph within 150 of any shoreline
- * All power propelled craft must have registration and be visibly displayed
- * No child under age 12 may operate power craft
- * No operating watercraft under the influence
- * Jet Skis MAY NOT tow skiers, tubes, etc

Your membership for 2006 is due – if you have not sent in your membership fee – please do. Check the date above your mailing address below. If it does not say 2006 – your membership fee has not been received. Let us know if any changes in address, phone #s, etc are needed. Send changes to Tom Sargent at HRA PO Box.

**HRA Membership Form – Membership Fee \$25.00 per year per family
Return to: Hamilton Reservoir Association, PO Box 17, Holland, MA 01521**

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Holland Phone: _____ Home Phone _____ North Basin ____ South Basin _____

Lake Address _____ Email Address _____

Your membership DOES make a difference in preserving our lakes and all the properties surrounding them. Whether you attend our meetings or not – the HRA needs your support – more importantly our lakes deserve to remain clean, safe and enjoyable for all.