

Friends of Silver Lake
Board Meeting
April 10, 2013

Members present: Jean Adams, Ed DeJong, Bill DeJong, Marty Hayden, Bob Henry, and Sue Sharp

1. Three seats on the board are up in June. Chair of the nominating committee, Tim DeMaat, will talk to those board members to see if they would like to run again. He will also solicit ideas for other nominees from the other board members. New board members will be voted on at the June meeting.
2. The annual meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2013 at 9AM. Ed DeJong will contact Grace Adventures to see if the meeting can be held there. If not he will contact the township.
3. Bill DeJong and Marty Hayden, members of the IT committee, will meet Friday to discuss progress. Marty will report back to the board.
4. The USGS Steering committee meets next week. The committee includes Larry Byl, Bill Bryker, Bill DeJong, and representatives from GVSU and USGS. The USGS has been taking samples during the winter. 4 wells went in around the lake this week. The stream gauges are working and the web site is up. GVSU is working on phosphorus loading and moving along well.

It was suggested that we ask Angela from the USGS to do a handout on how to use the USGS website. We will include that in the next email we send out.

Tony Groves is getting ready to send out his report on the water depths and the infill going on in the lake.

5. Gary Darling has had a discussion with Val Du Lakes and they are willing to host this years Silver Event. It will be held the third Saturday of August, the same week as last year. The board discussed having the proceeds from the fundraiser go to help with the development of the park being developed in the Apple Fest area. Instead of asking businesses for items this year we discussed auctioning gently used good quality items that residents would donate to the auction.
6. A huge thank you to Bill DeJong for putting out the survey on the new park. It was very helpful. Connie Cargill said Harry Wierenga from Fleis & Vanden Brink Engineering, Inc. is working on some drawings for the park. No one knew if Harry was able to submit the grant applications that were due the early part of April.

We discussed the need to get some seasonal residents on the committee if possible. The members on the committee now are both business people and year round residents. Some responses to the survey expressed a concern that the committee will focus only on things that increase business. Perhaps we could ask to have a rep from the Friends of Silver Lake that does not have a business interest.

Jean Adams was speaking to Jeff Clark. The creek that goes through the 'red cottages' property owned by Robert Ortman is plugged up. Currently, an attempt to clean up the creek area between the park area and the lake is being made. If the creek is not cleaned up the park will flood. There is also plan to bring in topsoil, spread the topsoil and plant grass.

A recommendation was made to ask someone from the park committee to give a report at our annual meeting. Bob Henry will ask the park committee if they would be willing to do a presentation.

7. Two bike paths are being discussed. One from the current Silver Lake bike path through the state park area to the Lighthouse and another connecting Silver Lake with Pentwater through the Pentwater Plains.

Both were very well received in the survey. This will probably be a long - term discussion. We discussed putting together a 3 person committee that would do some research on what it would take to get this started and then report back to the board. We will ask for volunteers at the annual meeting. Ed will put it on the agenda.

8. Enlarging the lake assessment district. A discussion was held on what the best timing is to look at enlarging the assessment district. A decision was made to wait until the USGS gives us some recommendations. If it shows the areas impacting the lake are broader than the residents on the lake, it will be appropriate to work to increase the assessment area. We also decided that we should start now to gather the info on who is and who is not in the assessment area and how we would proceed with putting together the electronic information. Larry Byl is most likely the person to spearhead this. Ed will contact Larry and start a conversation. The Lake Improvement Board does have the authority to take a bigger role in this.
9. Fracking is a big area of community interest. There is one well in Mears. A second well is under discussion near Juniper Beach. A lot of education needs to be done so that people can become informed. We all need to be better educated and proactive. Larry Byl has a forum scheduled for June 15. We discussed sending out an email to all Friends of Silver Lake members advertising the forum and encouraging people to attend. The intention of the forum is education.

10. The next meeting of the board will be May 8 at 4 PM. Plans for the annual meeting will be finalized at that meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Sharp, Secretary