

Friends of Silver Lake

Annual Meeting

June 11, 2016 9:00 a.m.

Grace Adventures, Beacon Gymnasium

1. President Tom Rickhoff called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the board members. He stated that the format for the meeting would be presentations by several groups and individuals, with a time for concerns and questions from those in attendance.

Current Board Members:

06/2013-06/2015 Bob Busscher, Bill DeJong (Treasurer), and Tom Rickhoff (President)

06/2014-06/2016 Chris Olson, Michael Jonassen (Vice-President), and Ed DeJong

06/2015-06/2017 Pat Petermann, Judi Rippee, and Rita Vander Vliet (Secretary)

2. Jody Johnston, Silver Lake State Park Manager, presented an update on the state park renovation. During the question and answer period, he clarified two issues: when the parking spaces at the boat launch are filled, no more boats may be launched; also, there is no rule from the DEQ about the size of boats allowed on Silver Lake.

3. The Silver Lake Recreation Association (SLRA) presented information on their make-up and purpose. They are a 501c3 organization of "duners" consisting of a seven member board. They are concerned with the ORV area of the Silver Lake dunes. Their main focus is safety. They are working on access issues and parking lot issues. Their Facebook page is

www.facebook.com/SilverLakeRecreationAssociation

During the question and answer period, it was stated that there is currently no limitation to the number of vehicles that can be on the dunes at one time. On holiday weekends, there are 5000 vehicles, or more, on the dunes.

Some people are concerned with the noise level of the vehicles. The law is that the sound cannot be over 94 decibels. This concern was referred to Jody who said that they currently do not have the manpower to enforce this.

There is concern regarding the second access off of North Shore Drive. This is an issue that was addressed in 1992 and the decision was made NOT to open a second gate to the dunes off of North Shore Dr.

4. a. Gary Dunham presented an update on Downtown Silver Lake. The park is developing nicely with plans for a band shelter, perimeter road, and bathroom facilities in the near future. To date,

\$750,000 has been spent. Gary mentioned two needs: weekly volunteers to wash the picnic tables in the park and musicians to start a band or orchestra.

b. Tom Rickhoff presented information on the Lighthouse Trail. There will be guides for the trail on Friday mornings at 9:00, from now until August 28. The dream is to have a bike trail connecting Silver Lake, Pentwater and Hart.

5. People were encouraged to volunteer for various positions to assist the FOSL. A list of interested people is being compiled by Ed DeJong.

6. Bill DeJong stated that we currently have a balance of \$9,994.48 in the bank.

7. The following people were elected to the board: Sean Henry, Don Tucker, and Jesse Chickering.

8. Tom Rickhoff explained a change to the FOSL bylaws, allowing for retired board members to automatically become three-year trustees. Trustees would be non-voting members. Bob Busscher, Bill DeJong, and Tom Rickhoff will be Trustees from 06/2016 to 06/2019.

9. The FOSL meeting was adjourned and followed by the USGS/GVSU presentation/discussion of the water study. A report of this study can be found at USGS.org.

Basically, the two main reasons for the poor water quality of Silver Lake are the levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in the lake. To reduce these levels, we were presented with five recommendations:

1. To reduce the presence of algae in the lake, we need to work on reducing the levels of nitrogen and phosphorus.
2. We should test the levels of cyanotoxins (dangerous to humans) in the lake on a regular basis.
3. Be aware that the managing strategy for nitrogen and phosphorus levels might change yearly.
4. Replace the septic tanks with a sewer system.
5. Identify the source of nitrogen coming through Hunter's Creek.

It was stated that a sewer system would make a big difference in the water quality of Silver Lake. It was also stated that no further studies were needed, and it was a USGS and GVSU consensus that a community sewer system should be implemented.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rita Vander Vliet