

Friends of Silver Lake

Minutes

Friends of Silver Lake Board Meeting

May 5, 2016

Members Present:

Bob Busscher, Bill DeJong, Ed DeJong, Mike Jonassen, Chris Olsen, Pat Petermann, Tom Rickhoff, Judith Rippee, Rita Vander Vliet

Guest: Jody Johnston, Silver Lake State Park Manager

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Rickhoff.

1. We approved the September 3, 2015, Board meeting minutes.
2. Bill presented the financial status of FOSL. Currently, we have \$9994.48. He reported that the fund raising letter at the end of 2015 was well received.
3. Bill presented the project update for USGS/GVSU. Basically, there are two main causes for the poor condition of Silver Lake. There is a very large nitrogen load coming from Hunter's Creek (51,000 pounds per year) and phosphate coming from the Silver Lake area. A summary should be available in the next few weeks, and a "lay version" of the summary will be available for the June 11 meeting of the Friends of Silver Lake.

Many different groups, such as Golden Township, the city of Hart, the DEQ, the Silver Lake Improvement Board and more, are involved in discussions about the plan of action based on the results of the study.
4. Jody Johnston updated us on the remodel of Silver Lake State Park. The new shelters are built, and yesterday the old changing room/bathroom was torn down. A new facility will be built during the summer, so port-a-potties will be used during this time. A new playground will be built in the fall. The boat launch area is nearly complete. Two new docks still need to be installed. The second layer of asphalt will be applied within the next two weeks, at the same time that N. Shore Road will be paved.
5. Jody also reported that there is a new group called SLRA (Silver Lake Recreation Association). They are a 501C3 group and are eligible for grant money from the state. They have hired an engineering company to look at the addition or enlargement of the parking lot. It appears that in the near future, not only will side x sides not be allowed on the roads, they also will not be able to be insured. This will increase the need for more parking.
6. Vouchers for the dunes will be distributed at 8:00 a.m. this coming season. Hopefully, this will eliminate the parking of vehicles on the side of the road from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., when the vouchers were previously distributed.

7. The Board unanimously approved an amendment to the bylaws.

Section 1. Trustees. Directors who have completed their term(s) will become Trustees for a period of three years. Trustees will be invited to attend Board of Director meetings but will not be voting members. Trustees will serve in an advisory capacity and may serve on committees as needed.

8. Mike, Judith and Tom volunteered to be on the nominating committee for new Board members. Three people must be added to the Board to replace Bob, Bill and Tom who will be ending their terms this year. These nominees need to be approved by the board before the election at our June 11th meeting. We are planning to do the approval via email.

9. Ed reported that we have a presence at the Tuesday picnics in Golden Township Park and at Apple Fest. He was open for more ideas to increase our exposure. Pat suggested that we could be in charge of the set-up and clean-up for one of the Tuesday picnics. We could wear our hats and have literature available. Also, perhaps we could have a presence in the Asparagus Parade.

10. A committee of Judith, Pat and Rita will organize a beer/pizza event to be held sometime in August. This needs to be scheduled before the June 11 meeting.

11. Ed will take care of setting things up for the June 11 FOSL meeting at Grace Adventures.

12. Recreation Committee - Tom reported that we were going to ask for volunteers again this year to guide people interested in hiking the Lighthouse Trail on Saturday mornings.

13. Bill asked Jody if he would suggest to SLRA that they send a representative to our meetings and we send a representative to their meetings. It would be helpful to know the issues that are being considered and to understand each other's viewpoints.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita Vander Vliet