

Friends of Silver Lake

Annual Meeting-Minutes

June 9, 2018 9:00 AM

Location: Grace Adventures

I. Introductions

President Bill DeJong, President introduced the Friends of Silver Lake Board Members

II. State Park/DNR Improvements- Update

Josh Smith, Silver Lake State Park Supervisor provided an overview of the ORV improvement plans that includes changing the entry area, widening the lanes to enter the dunes, expanding the parking lot at the Voucher/Welcome Center, removing trees, etc. It is our understanding the final construction plans are yet to be finalized by DEQ and there may also be some funding issues associated with the improvements.

There were several questions associated with the pedestrian issues and access to Silver Lake. Several persons stated that last year there was some good discussion addressing some of these issues, but it does not appear like these issues have been addressed in these improvement plans. It is suggested that the parties that met with the State Park and DNR last year should re-establish communications.

Josh Smith also spoke about **Oak Wilt Disease** and **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**

Oak Wilt kills healthy red oaks. White oaks can also be affected but are more resistant and less vulnerable to mortality from the disease. Once a red oak becomes infected with the oak wilt fungus, the tree will die, and there is no treatment to save the infected tree. Once an oak wilt infection is confirmed, however, treatments are available to save surrounding oaks and stop the spread of this disease. **What can you do?** DO NOT prune oak trees during the growing season. If you need to prune oaks, DO NOT prune them between April 15 and August 15. DO NOT move firewood: oak wilt is spread by the movement of infected wood.

Much of the state's hemlock resource is relatively old and very vulnerable to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. If this pest becomes established, most of these trees will be killed. See attached slides for additional information.

III. Silver Lake Dam Improvements

Michelle Martin, Oceana County Drain Commissioner provided an overview of improvements needed to the Silver Lake Dam. There are several issues with the dam, spillway, banks, etc. that need to be addressed. The Drain Commission office has had an engineering study done, filed for permits from the DEQ and Army Corp of Engineers. The work will include installing 41 feet of steel sheet piling, 60 cubic yards of riprap, rework existing riprap below the dam, removal of sand covering the overflow spillway and installing 30 feet of guardrail. There will be issues with road and traffic control

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during construction. It is anticipated this work will be done in the fall of 2018 or spring of 2019.

The Drain Commission will conduct a special meeting on August 8, 2018 at the Golden Township Hall regarding this project. There will be a special assessment to lake property owners. More information on this will be at the meeting.

IV. Silver Lake Improvement Board-Update

Larry Byl, Oceana County Commissioner and chair of the Silver Lake Improvement Board provided an update. Mr. Byl reported that a Request for Proposals has been sent out for the selection of a lake management company. Proposals are due June 15th and it is planned that a lake management company will be selected by mid-July.

He also reported that the Lake Improvement Board, by law, consists of one county commissioner, one township trustee, the drain commissioner and two lake representatives. Mark DeMaat has served on the board for several years and he resigned in 2016. Larry is working with the Township to get this position filled.

V. Sewer Update

Richard Walsworth, Golden Township Trustee provided an update of activities associated with sewers for Silver Lake. Last year, the Township applied for a grant from the Department of Agriculture Rural Development to conduct a PER (pre-engineering report). This report was completed by Prein & Newhof and Larry Stephens last November. An ER (environmental review) has also been conducted. The PER developed estimates determining it would cost approximately \$20m to develop a sewer system for Silver Lake. Everyone realizes this is a very large dollar amount, but it comes down to how this might be funded. The Township, in cooperation with the County is in the process of filing an application for federal funding. The plan is to have this application filed by August 1st at which time this will be reviewed. We are hopeful that the federal government will provide a partial grant (that does not need to be paid back) and very low interest loans to finance the project. We will likely know in September or October if this is possible.

The Township is also in the process of selecting an engineering firm to do the actual engineering work on the project. Proposals have been received, interviews were conducted this past Thursday and a recommendation will be made to the Township on Tuesday.

A sewer advisory committee has been formed consisting of two township representatives along with Craig Cihak, Mark Rippee and Bill DeJong. The Friends of Silver Lake are strongly recommending this committee stay in place to establish ongoing communications between the township, business owners and residents.

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VI. Volunteers Needed

Jim Baumbick, Vice President of the Friends of Silver Lake reviewed a list of volunteer opportunities. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help the Friends of Silver Lake, please get in contact with us.

VII. Treasurer's Report

It was reported that the current balance is 14,027.60. There are no dues to be part of the Friends of Silver Lake and all of our funds come from contributions. Thank you to those of you who made contributions in the past year.

VIII. Election of Board Members

The following persons were elected to the Friends of Silver Lake Board of Directors

Gary Dunham
Ron Bell
Rita Vander Vliet

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Board.

IX. Other Business

X. Adjourn