

# Friends of Silver Lake

## Friends of Silver Lake Board Meeting - Minutes

May 20, 2019

Meeting Location: Conference Call

Board Members on Conference Call: Ron Bell, Jim Baumbick, Jesse Chickering, Bill DeJong, Tom Hill, and Chris Van Antwerp. Absent: Sean Henry and Rita Vander Vliet

Trustee on Conference Call: Ed DeJong

The purpose of the meeting was to have a general discussion regarding events over the past six months and begin to establish plans going forward. The following are items that were discussed.

1. The June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board conference call has been canceled. The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 15.
2. The FoSL Annual meeting will be held at the end of summer (maybe late August). This will allow us to attend some of the exploratory meetings being held by other groups and determine how we may want to move forward.
3. The exploratory meeting noted in our last email communication has been changed to July 6th 10am-noon at the Golden Township Hall Gymnasium. Hopefully many of us can attend to see what is being proposed for "PLAN B" (Guy Reece is still leading this, feel free to contact him if you have questions: [guyandrhondareece@gmail.com](mailto:guyandrhondareece@gmail.com) )
4. The Board had a general discussion regarding the Golden Township Trustee's action to terminate pursuing USDA Rural Development funding for sewers.
  - Tom Hill indicated that he is planning to speak to the Township Board
  - Even though this action has been taken, the problem still exists
  - We are uncertain as to what actions the Silver Lake Dunes Area Property Owners will take. In their letter, dated March 11, 2019 which they sent to all property owners, they said "Simply stated, we believe that the Township and/or Health Department should conduct regular inspections to make sure that each cottage has a septic system which is up to code. If it not up to code, the Township and/or Health Department should order it replaced."
    - Observations
      - This is all find and good, but the problem is that the soils around Silver Lake are not conducive to binding phosphorous and the solution is to eliminate septic systems and remove the affluent from Silver Lake.
      - Under current State of Michigan laws, the Township and/or Health Department do not have the legal bases for conducting regular inspections and ordering

property owners to replace their system. Currently, the only time this is permitted is when a property is sold.

- Two bills were introduced in the Michigan legislature in 2018 that appear to never have made it out of committee. House Bills 5752 and 5753
  - We will need to see what further actions the Silver Lake Dunes Area Property Owners take, or if this was all a smoke screen to stop sewers and nothing else.
5. The Board is supportive of a FoSL sponsored boat parade for July 4th. Rita is to assemble a summary of costs for permits, prizes etc... then we can share it with the board and vote on it via email to support putting some money behind the project.
  6. We would like to investigate having some informal discussions with the DEQ to understand their position on how to address the issues with the lake and septic effluent.
  7. Jim Baumbick suggested some water testing be done during the season to see if there is any ground water contamination.
  8. Gary Dunham has elected to resign his board position due to competing priorities.

Respectfully submitted

Bill DeJong, Secretary