

Silver Lake Association Fall 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Wenzel at the Cumberland Branch of the Dairy State Bank at 8:30 AM, Saturday September 3, 2016. 25 people signed in with all Board Members present, the estimated total was between 28 and 33 people

Minutes of the Spring, 2016 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Steve Knudson and approved. There is a balance of 16,499.66 with 15781.76 in the General Fund and 717.90 in the Water Quality Fund. A motion was made, seconded and approved to transfer funds in the amount of \$5000.00 from the General Fund to the Water Quality fund specifically for the purpose of emergency response to any aquatic invasive species threat (AIS), to be used at the Board's direction for rapid response to AIS, should this become necessary.

Kari Chase presented the plans for the Silver Lake Directory and provided a paper update of changes in email addresses, phone numbers and new additions. A full reprint is planned for Spring, 2017. The plan is for an update annually, with a full listing every two years. Members are invited to email any picture for consideration for the cover page. As always, we welcome new property owners and encourage them to join with us in enhancing and preserving the quality of Silver Lake.

Kevin Jacobson provided a report on the 2016 Clean Boats/Clean Waters program aimed at curtailing the spread of AIS. Inspections occurred between Memorial Day to Labor Day. Staffing of the inspection station was targeted at periods of high traffic, such as warmer, sunny days when the number of boats significantly increased. Most boaters were cooperative but two groups left because they would not remove weeds found on their boat and trailer. Parking was a problem on high usage days, but was mitigated somewhat by putting out cones to direct parking and traffic. Through July 10th, we had 100 hours of inspection logged and need 200 hours total to qualify for the program. The tally through Labor Day is expected to meet this mark.

Bob Wenzel reported that he will once again apply for a grant to support the program, but indicated that we need inspectors. The membership was urged to forward any thoughts regarding staffing. We provide \$12/hour for contract labor to fill this need. As of this meeting, we have no one identified to staff the program.

There was discussion around this issue with the following points made:

1. Inspectors are backed up by the Barron County Sheriff, Dave Moin. A cell phone is needed for contact, however.
2. Other lake associations try volunteers, but with mixed results and little success.
3. Rob Fillmore volunteered to act as the focus to fill the gap.

Our summer picnic at Linda and Dale Goergens was well attended, with great food and conversation. Thanks to Linda and Dale for hosting the fun event. James and Holly Priebe volunteered to host the 2017 picnic at a date yet to be determined. The Jansens indicated a willingness to host the event in 2018.

The Walleyes for Tomorrow organization continues to work to improve the natural walleye fishery and are planning on continuing in 2017. Since the beginning in 2008 these activities have served to increase

the spawning survival rate of the native walleyes. It was a mixed blessing the first year as word of the large walleyes lead to an aggressive harvest that decimated the population. Since then, the walleye numbers have been steadily increasing. Additional "fish sticks" installations are planned for the winter at sites with "low energy" conditions, specifically Lepaks' and Wenzels'.

The next matter of business was to address two expiring Board Member terms: Kari and Brian Chase. Brian has decided not to serve again and Randy Harris is willing to be considered. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Kari Chase and Randy Harris to the Board. The motion was approved by the membership.

Out of concern for swimmer safety, Bob Wenzel and Kevin Jacobson took it upon themselves to renovate and place buoys at Grant Park. This good deed has had unforeseen consequences. Dave Moin's position is that it is Silver Lake Association's responsibility to place and maintain the buoys. Bob contacted the county on the matter and urged them to place a "no lifeguard on duty" sign and demanded a letter to relieve SLA of liability for placing the buoys, such as if they should float away and become a navigational obstacle.

Many among the membership expressed concern that even this won't be enough. The general opinion was that we should not take on park maintenance responsibilities that are DNR or Barron County matters, and outside the scope of SLA by-laws. A suggestion was made to get a county board member at our spring meeting and there is one county board member representing our area. In the end, it was resolved that SLA will not be involved with the buoys or park. Should anyone have concern about safety at the park or beach, they should contact the sheriff. Condition of the park concerns should be directed to Barron County. Our website has information to assist in making these contacts.

Other items

Internet from Century Link is at capacity, with no plans for major improvements. Hughs satellite was reported as not a good option either. Better service might be in the future, but meanwhile contact your provider with concerns.

There was also discussion about preservation of quiet enjoyment and the challenges presented by rental properties. The best course is to contact the sheriff in the event there are concerns.

Wally King provided an update of regulations pertaining to the lake. While changes to the state laws now eliminate county options for more restrictive rules than those statewide, points below the ordinary high water mark are part of the lakebed and subject to rules. Contact Barron County for specifics to avoid trouble.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fillmore

Silver Lake Association Secretary.