

Silver Lake Association Spring 2017 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 May 27, 2017 with 34 people signed in. Board Members Wenzel, King, Knudson, Chase and Fillmore were present; Goergen absent.

Minutes of the Fall, 2017 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Steve Knudson and approved. There is a balance of \$18,856.05 with \$13,137.83 in the General Fund and \$5,718.22 in the Water Quality/AIS Rapid Response Fund.

Kari Chase presented the Spring, 2017 update of the Silver Lake Association Directory. This is a full paper update of changes in email addresses, phone numbers and new additions available to Association members. An update of changes and additions is planned for Spring, 2018 with a full reprint planned for Spring, 2019.

Our summer picnic at James and Holly Priebe's for Saturday July 22 was announced.

Wally King presented a review of Silver Lake Water Quality. The beaver dam in the culvert across 11th Street was removed by Barron County 2 years ago to keep the street from being damaged by water. The plug dam installed several years ago keeps water from Sylvan Lake from entering Silver Lake and restores the natural watershed of Silver Lake. The idea of damming water from entering Silver Lake from the farm field north of 27th Ave was discussed. Bob Wenzel indicated he would contact Tyler Gutzmacher regarding the matter.

The population of geese on Silver Lake and their negative impact was discussed. Jim O'Brien reported Rice Lake sent out people trained to oil geese eggs to control the population. The view that we should get help from the County to reduce the population based on the detrimental impact at Grant Park was expressed. Geese also have potential to spread weeds, including AIS. No motion on the matter was made.

Plans for the Boat Inspection program were presented. Zack Jacobson will lead the staffing this year, with help from Rice Lake High School students to fill in gaps. As in the past, we will target days of highest usage. Bob Wenzel reported that we received payment from the 2016 grant and have a 2017 grant for the program.

Bob presented a summary of the 2017 Walleyes for Tomorrow hatchery. This year was very successful with 80 to 90% hatch of eggs to fry and introduced a full allotment of fry to the lake. The DNR survey of the walleye population indicated a very low number and reflects the pressures of anglers and spearing. This calls into question the utility of continuing the hatchery which cannot replenish this level of harvest.

The DNR survey also discovered that the Silver Lake crappie population is infected with Black Crappie Sarcoma, which presents itself as lesions on the fish. They directed that these fish should not be eaten or returned to the lake. Members are encouraged to report observation of occurrences to Bob Wenzel.

This winter's weather and schedule conflicts prevented the planned Fish Sticks installation. Perhaps 2018 will provide better opportunities.

Concerns were expressed about safety at Grant Park. There have been frequent observations of boat traffic encroaching on the swimming area. Members should contact the County Sheriff to report such instances. Other concerns were the roto-tilling of the beach area, swimming on the boat launch dock, lack of no wake zone signage and absence of life guards.

An item of general information was an update on internet service in the area. Service has been improved on the east side of the lake. It was reported that the remainder of the area will be updated this summer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fillmore

Silver Lake Association Secretary.