

# SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION FALL, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

## **Draft Rev A**

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 2, 2017 with 35 people signed in. All Board members were present with the exception of Linda Goergen and Steve Knudson.

The minutes of the Spring, 2017 meeting were read by the Secretary and approved.

Copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated to the members with highlights presented by Bob Wenzel. As of 9/2/17, we have a balance of \$17,605.40 with 11,887.06 in the general fund and \$5,718.34 in the water quality/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) rapid response fund. A copy of the report is attached. The treasurer's report was approved.

Bob elaborated that we need ideas of how to invest our resources in activities to sustain the quality of Silver Lake for the long term. Money is not the limiting factor and could likely be raised from the membership for worthwhile projects. An example would be to hire someone to survey the lake for AIS.

The topic of the goose population was kicked off by Virginia Berglund based on their negative impacts to the lake in the form of additional nutrient load and public health concern. Many views were expressed on methods for control. Later in the meeting a motion was made and approved appointing Wally King and Holly Kelley to a committee to explore options. The view is that action will be most effective if it can be taken early next year. Therefore, a motion was made and approved to proceed in the following fashion.

- Holly and Wally will issue a report to the board by February 1, 2018 as to our options and their recommendations.
- The board will present a plan based on this information to members and lake residents via email.
- The plan will be adopted if it gains approval from a majority of the Association members at the time of the email vote.

Bob Wenzel reviewed the findings from the Spring 2017 fish survey. Their survey analysis concludes that Silver Lake has only 2.2 walleyes per acre or a total of about 735 adult fish. This is in spite of ten years of the Walleyes for Tomorrow hatchery activities which introduced over a million fry over this period. Given this there is no plan to continue in the future. Bob indicated that anyone else wanting to take over the program should talk to him.

No one knows the impact level from angling pressure, largemouth bass populations or other factors. A suggestion was made to inquire as to whether the reducing the minimum legal size for possession of largemouth bass could be considered. Perhaps walleye regulations should return to one fish over 26 to 28 inches. Bob will speak to Aaron Cole of the DNR on the matter and invite him to speak at our Spring 2018 meeting.

The next agenda topic was the 2017 Clean Boats/Clean Waters inspection program which was headed by Zack Jacobson. We also benefitted from assistance from students of Rice Lake teacher Dan Graff. Through 8/20/17, the program logged 220 hours of inspection time. At this point, we have no information on how many boats were intercepted with aquatic vegetation attached. We will apply for a grant to continue the program in 2018.

The summer picnic at Holli and Jim Priebe's was well attended and fun for all. Holli and Jim are thanked for hosting the event. Deb and Rich Jansen have agreed to host the 2018 picnic.

The Fish Sticks installations planned for last winter did not materialize due to weather, schedule and thin ice conditions. If factors are favorable, more are planned for 2018 at Wenzel's and Lepak's.

Once again, we welcome new property owners. The residence of David Cox was recently purchased by a new owner that Kari Chase has tried to contact. The membership was reminded that a welcome kit is available for anyone to use on our website.

Bob Wellhoeffer gave a presentation of the water quality monitoring work he has done over the last 15 years. While our water quality is still good, we can see the effect of this summer's increased rainfall and increased runoff from lakeshore and other lands within the watershed. Runoff from our properties is a significant source of nutrients that deteriorate water quality.

Bob and others offered some suggestions lakeshore owners can take to minimize damage from their activities.

1. Exclude campfires from beaches or areas on or near the water/ice. Clean up and safely dispose of ashes from campfires. Wood ash is rich in nutrients that harm the lake. The nutrients from any left in the watershed will eventually leach into the lake.
2. Follow DNR and Barron County laws and regulations regarding vegetation on the lakebed and within the required buffer zones, e.g. do not mow to the water's edge. Our website can lead you to the appropriate resources for detailed information. This will help reduce runoff.
3. Refrain from fertilizing on your property and never use fertilizer containing phosphorus. One pound of phosphorus leads to 500 pounds of algae growth in the lake.

Bob Wenzel reported that he tried to contact Tyler Gutzmacher of Barron County regarding the manure runoff from across 27<sup>th</sup> avenue, but has heard nothing back.

The next topic was elections for expiring and vacated board positions. Bob announced he will be leaving the board this fall. He was thanked for his many years of excellent service. Wally King also announced his decision to leave the board and also was thanked for his service. With the terms of Linda Goergen and Rob Fillmore expiring this fall, we have four vacant seats. After discussion the following nominations were made resulting in elections as follows:

1. Bob Wellhoeffer and Holli Priebe were elected for a term expiring in Fall 2020
2. Linda Goergen and Rob Fillmore were elected to fill the remainder of the Bob Wenzel's and Wally King's terms that expire in Fall 2018.

This preserves the schedule of board terms that balances the elections over time so that no more than three terms expire in a given year.

A motion was made and approved authorizing Virginia Berglund to investigate whether the DNR or others are available to conduct a survey of the lake for AIS. Her findings will be reported to the board by February 1, 2018 and be an agenda item for our Spring 2018 meeting.

Many expressed concerns about various compliance issues ranging from safety at Grant Park to violations of zoning and DNR laws and regulations. For example, Roz reported seeing a boat water-ski over the loons. Members are encouraged to photograph or video such events and contact the DNR or Barron County Sheriff immediately. The phone numbers are: DNR Game Wardens 715-822-2564 (Phil Dorn), 715-645-0050 (Russ Fell); Sheriff 715-637-6737. With the retirement of Phil Dorn this fall, the DNR will be more resource-limited than ever. Their efforts are focused on responding to specific complaints, so reports from the public are vital. Several members reported getting response to such complaints within minutes of their calls.

It was suggested that preliminary minutes of our meetings should be circulated electronically along with other information and educational materials. Kari Chase has built an excellent website that provides a platform for this. These suggestions will be acted on by the board and anyone willing to volunteer to help. Contact any board member to express your interest. Contact info is on the website and in our directory. Bob Wellhoeffer volunteered to produce a document highlighting best lakeshore practices to improve and preserve water quality.

Other matters of interest were discussed.

1. Two loon chicks survived the summer. Bob Wenzel does not recall such breeding success before. Generally eagle predation is the problem.
2. Is the roto-tilling of the beach at Grant Park permitted by the DNR?
3. Placing buoys at Grant Park is the responsibility of Lakeland Township according to their ordinances, according to Brian Chase who looked into the matter. Widespread concern remains about safety at the park. Again, members should report concerns.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fillmore  
Secretary, Silver Lake Association