

BYLAWS

SILVER LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Grand Traverse County, Michigan

Incorporated December 8, 1965

Updated and Approved

Annual Meeting, August 25, 1975

Annual Meeting, August 13, 1987

Annual Meeting, August 10, 2002

Annual Meeting, August 6, 2016

Annual Meeting, August 6, 2022

ARTICLE I

NAME

SECTION 1. A non-profit organization, the name of which shall be The Silver Lake Improvement Association of Grand Traverse County, Michigan, and which shall be referred to herein as the association.

SECTION 2. The mailing address of the association shall be Post Office Box 117, Grawn, MI 49637.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

SECTION 1. The purpose of the association is to improve and preserve Silver Lake, by co-operating with established state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce rules of law and ethics whereby the interest of boat operators, fishermen, and bathers may be protected; to work and co-operate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other related agencies to establish a normal high water lake level; to maintain, improve and protect the water quality and environment, the fishing, and wildlife. To strive to achieve these ends by educating the residents and general population through the efforts of the organization.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Any interested party may join the association.

SECTION 2. Regular membership is restricted to lake frontage property owners.

SECTION 3. Associate memberships will be issued to any interested people not lake frontage property owners.

SECTION 4. Associates members enjoy all benefits of regular membership except do not have the privilege of voting or holding elective office.

SECTION 5. The secretary, or other designated director, shall compile a list of membership as dues are paid.

SECTION 6. Owners in common of a subdivision access lake lot will be deemed associate members.

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

SECTION 1. The Board of directors shall consist of twelve (12) members chosen as provided in ARTICLE IX, ELECTIONS. The board of directors is responsible for complying with the bylaws and carrying out the business of the association. The board of directors shall elect the officers.

SECTION 2. All officers of the association shall be regular members and shall consist of the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Section 3. The president shall be chief executive officer, and shall preside at the annual and any general meetings and the meetings of the board of directors; appoint all committees and direct their pursuits, and uphold the by-laws of the association. The president shall insure that corporation papers are filed and fees are paid as required by state law.

SECTION 4. The vice-president shall have the same qualifications as the president so as to be fully prepared to act in the absence of the president

SECTION 5. The president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected for a one year term and may be re-elected for additional terms.

SECTION 6. The board members shall be elected for two year terms, six board members each year.

SECTION 7. The president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer shall sit with the board of directors, constituting a governing body of twelve (12) who shall conduct the business of the association.

SECTION 8. The governing body shall conduct and transact the business of the association. It shall direct projects, cooperate with governmental departments with which they may come in contact, shall authorize the payment of bills and promote the welfare of the association to the best of their ability.

SECTION 9. The governing body shall conduct and transact the business of the association

ARTICLE V

ANNUAL MEETING, GENERAL MEETINGS, BOARD MEETINGS, QUORUM

SECTION 1. The annual meeting shall be held during the months of July or August. Suitable time and place is to be announced by the secretary, or other designated director, at least two weeks in advance.

SECTION 2. Any other general meeting deemed necessary may be called with the same notice required.

SECTION 3. The annual meeting shall be for the purpose of the election of board members, the annual reports of all committees, and the general expression of the membership on projects, amendments to the by-laws, and the general welfare of the association.

SECTION 4. The governing body shall meet within thirty days before and after the annual meeting. Two other meetings within the fiscal year shall be called by the president or any four board members. Additional board meetings may be called as deemed necessary.

SECTION 5. The president or vice-president and secretary or treasurer and any four board members shall constitute a quorum for a board meeting or annual meeting.

SECTION 6. The presiding officer shall not vote except in case of a tie vote in the board meeting. Should a tie vote exist the presiding officer shall then cast the deciding vote.

SECTION 7. If a director or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board, that director/officer shall disclose the conflict of interest before participating in the discussion and abstain from voting.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. There shall be two classifications of committees: permanent and temporary.

SECTION 2. The permanent committees shall be: 1. Rules Committee, 2. Finance Committee, 3. Membership Committee, 4. Publicity Committee, 5. Nominating Committee, and 6. Environmental committee.

SECTION 3. Temporary committees may be appointed at the first board meeting following the annual meeting.

SECTION 4. The term of all committees shall expire at the first board meeting following the annual meeting.

SECTION 5. Any member of the organization may be appointed to any committee. The governing body shall make rulings to guide the actions and prevent the overlapping of the duties of several committees.

SECTION 6. The appointment of the permanent committee chairpersons, except the nominating committee, shall be made and confirmed no later than the first board meeting following the annual meeting

ARTICLE VII FINANCE

SECTION 1. The association shall be financed by the assessment of annual dues payable in advance. The annual dues shall be determined at the discretion of the board of directors on an equal per parcel basis and shall be due September 1, of each year, with one vote per parcel, with no individual having more than one voting membership

SECTION 2. All monies collected shall be deposited in the name of the association in a bank in Traverse City.

SECTION 3. The treasurer shall be a member of the finance committee.

SECTION 4. The fiscal year shall start September 1 and end August 31.

SECTION 5. The finance committee shall provide oversight of the treasurer's books at the end of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VIII **DISBURSEMENT**

SECTION 1. Bills owed by the association shall be ordered paid by the governing body, after which the treasurer shall draw and sign checks for such payments. The treasurer shall be authorized to pay bills up to \$500.00 without an order from the governing body.

SECTION 2. The treasurer and a minimum of one additional board member shall have their names recorded on the bank account.

ARTICLE IX **ELECTIONS**

SECTION 1. Six board members shall be elected at each annual meeting of the association.

SECTION 2. The nominating committee shall prepare a slate of six nominees for board members. Other nominations shall be accepted from the floor at annual meeting.

SECTION 3. Should vacancies occur on the board, the president shall appoint any regular active member to fill such vacancy for the balance of the term. Should the office of president become vacant, the vice-president shall become president and shall proceed to appoint a vice-president from the members of the board. The vacancy thus caused on the board shall be filled by regular procedure. All such appointments shall be confirmed by a simple majority of the board of directors.

ARTICLE X **AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. Amendments to these by-laws may originate in the board meetings or by any member attending such meetings or from the floor at annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Any proposed amendments originating in the annual meeting shall carry on motion to be presented to the board in writing for study. The board may recommend it for adoption or reject it by a vote of greater than 2/3 majority.

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 3. Any proposed amendments originating in the board meeting and adopted by the board shall be presented at the following general membership meeting for adoption or rejection by a 2/3 majority vote.

SECTION 4. Any authorities and/or powers not delegated to the board shall be referred to the membership for final decision. The membership may, by amendment, delegate such authorities and/or powers to the board.

SECTION 5. Voting on amendments at general meetings shall be by show of hands unless a ballot is requested by a member of the voting membership present.

Silver Lake Improvement Association History

Information gathered from the archives show that efforts first began in 1963 to form the SLIA. It was incorporated as a non-profit Michigan corporation in 1965. The impetus for its creation was to seek a remedy to alleviate the low water levels in the mid 1960's, especially on the south end of the lake.

Then the water began to rise in the late 60's and early 70's. In 1974 they had a reverse problem. The water levels rose so high that along with dying vegetation, shorelines were eroding and people were experiencing flooded septic tanks and basements. The SLIA attempted to address the problem by petitioning the county to maintain a certain lake level. The county interpreted the petition to mean both draining lake water during high levels and pumping in ground water during low levels. An Adhoc committee of lake residents went to court at that time to stop the measure due to the negative and expensive aspects of extracting huge amounts of ground water to "maintain" the level during low times.

As in the 60's, the normal cyclical levels took over and the water went down. In the mid 80's, the levels rose again, with even greater damage to the shoreline, septic systems and buildings. The SLIA again went into action to address the continuing problem. They went to court, this time to establish only a high water level and to install an overflow drain to allow water to flow out when above the high water level set by the court. After petitions, public hearings, court hearings, and finally construction, the drain became a reality. Located on the South end of the lake, it flows under the highway into Beitner Creek, then into the Boardman River and ultimately into Grand Traverse Bay. Although it is often not opened for years at a time, it remains a safeguard when needed.

Silver Lake Improvement Association History Cont.

This places a large responsibility on the residents of Silver Lake to maintain the water quality, not only for the benefit of the riparians who share and reside on the lake, but to be mindful of the effect on these downriver waterways. The main focus of the SLIA continues to be to maintain the water quality through efforts to contain invasive species and to educate regarding these invasives, limiting phosphorous use, containing swimmer's itch by not feeding waterfowl., sharing other information as it becomes available or pertinent.

The SLIA publishes a newsletter and maintains a website to further this education, advise of current events, encourage safe lake use practices, co-operating with the townships, Blair and Garfield, state and local law enforcement, Michigan DNR and related agencies in this effort.

The SLIA has maintained a neutral stance on issues of preference by residents, leaving those issues to the governing bodies involved, only becoming involved when the environment and quality of the lake itself are involved.

Over the years the SLIA has sponsored many social events, such as fishing contests, a 4th of July Regatta, the Great Big Beach Ball, as well as civic involvement such as the Adopt-A-Road project, bringing the residents together as a community.

***This history is not included or adopted as part of the SLIA Bylaws, but as an informational synopsis of events for residents who are interested.

