

# ***Silver Lake Improvement Association***

*Caring for the future of the lake*

August 5, 2023

Annual Meeting: Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49685

42 families in attendance.

**Meeting called to order by President Ken Kaufman at 9:00 a.m.**

**Welcome by President Ken Kaufman.** Ken welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the agenda. Copies provided in the back. Last year we posted a non-official report of the annual meeting minutes that will be available shortly after the meeting.

**Minutes of the 8-6-2022 annual meeting** were presented for approval by Kelly Smith, secretary. Motion by Tom Thompson, 2nd by Wayne Knight to approve as presented. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance, Treasurer's report** presented by Denny Bogard. Previous balance from Annual Meeting, 2022, \$9,546.83. Income received through year - \$5,266.00, Expenditures – \$3,484.19, Current balance as of 8-5-2023 - \$11,328.64. Motion by Marcia Bowman, 2nd by Ellen Rapson that we accept and approve the expenditures for the year and the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

**Nominating, Election of Directors** presented by Denny Bogard. Proposed slate for the election of 6 directors for 2-year terms, 2023-24 through 2024-25. Denny thanked board members, especially Jim Bock who did a great job as welcoming committee head. Nominations included: Denny Bogard, Gary Borucki, Marcia Bowman, Ken Kaufman, Ellen Rapson, & Tom Thompson. Motion by Chuck Hathaway, 2nd by Barry Andrews to close the nominations and accept and approve the slate of directors for 2023-24 through 2024-25. Motion carried. (Note - 6 directors completing alternating 2-year term, 2022-23 through 2023-24 are Tim Brock, Jeff Heydlauff, Nancy Knight, Scot Ogden, Melanie Rippentrop, & Kelly Smith).

**Membership,** Denny Bogard. Currently, over 200 members. Previously, membership has been around 170 (over 350 parcels on the lake).

**Rules,** Kelly Smith. Kelly asked that anyone with experience digitizing records or knows a good recommendation for a company that digitizes records to contact the Silver Lake Association via email.

**Publicity,** Report by Ken Kaufman for Nancy Knight. Communications via gmail have gone well. Website is UpToDate and Fall Newsletter will be coming soon.

**Environmental,** Scot Ogden. We had a survey and treatment this spring. We had a large uptick in Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) to about 18 acres after many years at 5-6 acres. This uptick occurred in other lakes as well. A recent survey showed we are currently at 5 acres of EWM.

**Welcoming,** Ken Kaufman. Jim Bock has stepped down. Ellen Rapson has volunteered to head this committee.

**Drain Liaison,** Report by drain commissioner Andy Smits. In Dec 2021 the outlet on the South End was inspected by Andy, saving the special assessment fund about \$3,000. It must be inspected every 3 years. The outlet is 100% functional. We are currently below the inlet elevation, so no water is draining.

Barry Andrews asked about the status of Andy's controversial pay. Andy stated that the county board has not funded the drain commission adequately for decades. Andy has persuaded them to employ and pay people appropriately. Andy suggested, and the county agreed, that each new drain commissioner should start at a lower, but reasonable salary and then receive performance raises. Andy continues to advocate for proper funding and is hopeful. Ken asked that Andy keep us informed if he decides to run for reelection.

**Fisheries,** Tom Thompson. He is in contact with the DNR. We were scheduled to get fingerlings early this year, which hasn't happened, but we got 250,000 fry. We should be stocked with fingerlings later this year. They were supposed to do a full survey this year, but due to turnover in the State they are going to do a partial fish survey this year and are planning on a full survey in 2024. The fishing tournament had 22 people show up despite the poor weather. Please reach out to Tom if you have ideas or want to help with the fishing tournament.

**Loons,** Ken Kaufman reported for Nancy Weller, our new loon ranger. We have some non-nesting loons and one nesting pair that had one chick this year. They left an unhatched egg in the nest that Nancy removed and buried.

**Township Liaison,** Ken Kaufman reported for Tim Brock. Tim is currently working on concerns of septic issues with the township.

**Safety,** Report by Ken Kaufman for Jeff Heydlauff. The Silver Lake Association cannot enforce laws, but you can contact the marine department for illegal/unsafe activity. Ken created a brochure with contact info and safety reminders. Ken noticed that taking pictures of some jet skiers curbed their behavior even when he couldn't get an MC #.

**Adopt-a-road,** Report by Ken Kaufman for Ron Grin. We do Adopt-a-Road a few times a year.

**Shoreline Stewardship,** Melanie Rippentrop. Mike Lahey and Tim Brock are also committee members. Melanie joined MNSP (<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>) on behalf of Silver Lake. This organization has many educational resources to help members create natural shorelines that protect them from erosion. Please send Melanie your shoreline work (successes and issues). She would love to publish pictures and information.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Ben Schermerhorn, Restorative Lake Sciences Inc.,** Ben went to Northern MI University for fisheries, has 10 years of experience, and is new to RLS. Ben did the EWM survey / treatment for Silver Lake this year. He observed some phragmites and purple loosestrife along the shoreline. There was an increase in EWM across the state due to low ice cover. Ben discussed shoreline protection. Many people want beaches and large lawns, but it is possible to have a lawn and swim area, while maintaining a more native shoreline with vegetation. MNSP has recommendations for shorelines and contractors that specialize in natural/soft shorelines. Hard shoreline structures (rock walls, etc) reverberate energy from wave action back to the water. Soft shorelines absorb much of the energy, which decreases erosion. It is also important to prevent phosphates and nitrates from entering the lake via fertilizer use or leaching septic systems. He mentioned a product by SludgeHammer that can reduce leaching. Ben noticed many large rock walls on large hills. Mixing vegetation in with rock walls can help prevent excess nutrients from entering the lake.

Ben took questions. This was information discussed when answering those questions:

- Phragmites can be treated with herbicides, mechanical cutting, or rototilled.
- Glossy Buckthorn – an invasive species was observed by a resident.
- Invasive species can create monocultures, which can change the temperature of the water and eventually hurt fisheries.
- Silver Lake has good native vegetation diversity.
- If you must use fertilizer, use phosphate free. It is better to use lake water vs well water to water your lawn so that the nutrients from the lake water help fertilize your soil without adding excess nutrients to the lake.
- Currently wake boats are not regulated in MI. RLS recommends the use of coconut wrapped core logs and vegetation to stop erosion. Erosion also adds excess nutrients into the lake.

Ken reported the new MI DNR recommendations for wake boat use: operate wake boats 500 feet from shore, in 15 feet or deeper water, and clean boat and ballast before changing lakes. However, there is no enforcement for these recommendations, so we will contact the Marine Sheriff/DNR to find out if enforcement is planned. Melanie brought up that other boats also create wake. Since she has improved her shoreline, they have had much less erosion.

**Ken Kaufman, SLIA President,** Novel Approach to EWM removal. Ken read an article on Duck Lake (Upper Peninsula) that is doing manual removal of EWM. Duck Lake manually removes about 5 acres using two divers and volunteers (about 400 volunteer hours). He provided a chart showing the time commitment. Duck Lake is a shallower lake that has about the same acres as Silver Lake. He went over pros and cons of this type of removal for Silver Lake. We would need a project coordinator(s) and at least 30 volunteers for this type of removal to be possible. Ken did find out about a company, Freshwater Solutions, that might be able to help with this project.

Answers to questions:

- At Duck Lake the individual riparian owners are not responsible for their own EWM removal. This could be an option, but we need to be very careful of fragmentation.
- Scot reported the assessment cost \$20,000 this year for herbicide treatment. Hiring a diver could cost up to \$8,000.
- Ben answered that using burlap to stop EWM has the disadvantage of killing native vegetation along with EWM.
- The EWM survey occurs in late May/early June and another sometime in August. The first herbicide treatment occurs before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and if a second treatment is needed it occurs after Labor Day.

Ken said we would continue to research and report back to the membership.

**The Great Big Silver Lake Beach Ball and 4th of July Independence Day Regatta,** Chuck Hathaway reported that our beach ball supplier is no longer selling large beach balls. It is difficult to get a ball that is the right size (needs to fit our anchor and we would like to move it) and thickness. We could order the beach ball from amazon and leave it in one spot or find a way to buy the correct size beach ball in bulk. Al Strange managed to find a ball/build a harness that worked for this year, but the ball could not be moved.

We had a good year for registration. The parade route seems to be taking a long time. Chuck suggested we shorten the route. A commenter said that they like the longer route. Flags and laminated certificates were awarded to the following families:

- 1st Place - Berden & DeBruyn Families – “Construction”
- 2nd Place – Gekus, Babbs, Hoover, & Vanderzouwen Families – “50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary”
- 3rd Place - Gaca Family – “Area 51 – Aliens Coming In Peace”
- Honorable Mention - Machuta Family – “Loon Patrol”

**OLD BUSINESS,** We had the safety and boater brochures added to the sign at the boat launch.

**NEW BUSINESS,** none

## **OPEN FORUM**

- There were many concerns about boats / wake boats, and boating safety:
  - Some want no wake zones, must fill out an application with the DNR and oversee the buoy placement/removal.
  - Regulation of wake boats on Silver Lake was controversial. Would it decrease or increase property values? 500 feet from shore requirement vs ban. Wake boats / other boats may be reducing our sandy shores, by pushing sediment around.
  - Some lakes in the area have time restrictions when boats can make wake.
  - Marinas overusing the boat launch, blocking the launch with trailers, and power-loading their boats. The board will discuss re-visiting the marinas and seek win-win solutions to concerns raised by the membership.
  - A member reported a Jet Ski rental company using our boat launch. The board will discuss how to connect with this company, provide them with copies of our safety and etiquette brochure, and ask them to provide it to their customers.
- You can put out a mooring ball without a permit. There was disagreement about mooring distance and amount of time moored.
- The board is pursuing a septic system ordinance. What about connecting to a sewage system? The board does not have solid data on the problem of seepage, but we have heard of information of people having problems.
- You can manually remove purple loosestrife without using herbicides.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Smith.