

Silver Lake Improvement Corporation

2021 Annual Membership Meeting

May 27, 2021

President Greg Gessert called the meeting to order at 7:00PM after confirming that a quorum of members was on the Zoom call.

Greg thanked Lois Mahoney, SLIC Treasurer for “hosting” the meeting and for working with Lyn Bock, SLIC Secretary to help members get on the call. He asked if anyone would object to recording the call. There were no objections.

Greg welcomed members to the Annual Meeting. He introduced the other SLIC Board of Directors and indicated which committees they chaired or were on: Mary Bakhaus, Vice President (chaired the Boating Safety Committee), Lois Mahoney, Treasurer, Lyn Bock, Secretary (chaired the Welcome Committee with member Sandi Gessert and website committee), Jon Kuznicki (Website Committee with Lyn Bock and member Steve Showerman), Dale French, Immediate Past President, Erin Radley (Social Committee chair), Andy Eisenberg (Planning Committee with member Tom Mahoney, and Chris Williams (Boating Committee, fish seeding program coordinator, manages the SLIC trailer and assists Debbie Wirwille with the Arms/Wirwille boat launch). Greg also thanked a number of other non-director volunteers who also participated on committees or assisted with other SLIC activities: Bylaw Committee (Milan Obrenovich, Kathy Studer), Jan O’Beirne, audited the 2020 SLIC books, Roger Ratkowski (Boating Committee), and Nick Tytar (lawn maintenance on the Sumpter lot).

Greg especially thanked Debbie Wirwille on behalf of the SLIC membership and the SLIC board for continuing to make her launch available to SLIC members on the same generous terms that Frank Arms had for many years.

Election - Gessert

The first order of business was the election of Directors to the SLIC Board of Directors. Greg indicated that Mary Bakhaus, current Vice President and Erin Radley had agreed to run again for another 2-year term as directors and that Lyn Bock and he had decided not to run again. Dale French, immediate past president, and Ross Ridenour had agreed to run for the 2 vacant director positions. Gessert indicated that he would remain on the board as the immediate past president.

There were no other nominations for the 4 open Director positions. Dan Studer moved that the nominations be closed. Seconded by Barbara Hight. The motion passed. The

vote was then conducted and all members voted to elect the 4 director candidates. Greg thanked Lyn Bock for her extensive service on the board as Secretary and chair of the Welcome committee, work on the website, and social committees.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2020 SLIC Membership Meeting – Bock

Lyn Bock moved acceptance of the August 27, 2020 Annual Member meeting minutes; Mary Bakhaus second. There were no amendments and the motion passed.

President's Report – Gessert

Greg Gessert indicated that the Board, through the Planning Committee, conducted the second on-line member email survey in September 2020. SLIC member respondents' highest rated issues on the survey were: controlling milfoil through non-chemical means; reducing speeding on area roads; septic system inspections and the fish seeding program. Because septic systems and control of milfoil were both related to member concerns about lake water quality Greg contacted Matt Bolang of the Livingston County Environmental Services Department.

Bolang indicated that water quality on our lake seems to be good based on our E. coli sampling results. He was not optimistic about initiating a county septic testing program. He did not think the Livingston County Board of Commissioners would support even a "time of sale" septic testing program at this time such as the one in Washtenaw County. He suggested contacting the Green Oak Township supervisor, Mark St. Charles regarding this. Bolang indicated that he is very supportive of septic inspections and agrees with the need for this.

Greg indicated that he also contacted area lake associations including Whitmore Lake, Rush Lake Crooked and Sandy Bottom Lakes regarding the DASH program to encourage them to consider this non-chemical approach. He indicated that he would contact them again when the DASH contractor was on our lake.

To address the speeding on area roads issue, Greg indicated that he contacted Green Oak Township (GOT) Police Chief Pless. Chief Pless said that he intended to increase speed enforcement on our roads and acknowledged that speeding on area roads seems to have increased significantly in recent months. He also indicated that the current GOT speed monitor trailer was not in working condition; however, he hoped to have a more capable speed monitor device in the future. Greg told him a volunteer on our board had offered to make a donation to the GOT to purchase a new speed monitor. He said that he appreciated the offer but indicated that he planned to request funds for this in a future GOT budget.

Greg said that he also told the Chief that boating safety on the lake was mentioned by SLIC members as a problem. Chief Pless indicated that although the GOT police department did not have a marine patrol it did have a boat for emergencies. He said that if anyone on the lake called 911 regarding an unsafe or illegal boating situation on our lake he would dispatch an officer to investigate.

Finally, Greg also expressed his appreciation to the board and the membership for contributing to make the last two years very active and successful ones for our organization despite complications related to the pandemic. Greg especially thanked Steve Showerman for his volunteer work on the new SLIC website. Having a SLIC website will be an excellent step forward for our organization.

Treasurer's Report – Mahoney

2020 Expenditures

Lois Mahoney went over 2020 SLIC expenditures. She noted that she provides this information monthly on-line to members who have given her their email addresses. Lois explained a couple of cost areas that were somewhat higher than previously anticipated. She explained that the high mailing costs were associated with the need to send out copies of the proposed bylaw amendments using first class mail as required by our current bylaws. A 2020 DASH expense was related to a deposit to lock-in the DASH contractor for the 2021 season. She noted that DASH expenses were approved at the 2020 Membership meeting.

Bill Brandon moved the acceptance of the 2020 Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mary Bakhaus. The motion was passed. Lois thanked member Jan O'Brien for conducting her very thorough audit of the 2020 SLIC books.

Proposed 2021 Budget

Lois explained that the high 2020 mailing costs should not be necessary in the current year under the proposed bylaw changes and because the board can use the large number of member email addresses. The proposed bylaw amendments eliminate the requirement to use first class mail for SLIC communications. Furthermore, when the SLIC website is complete it will also be used for SLIC communications to members. Lois indicated that DASH costs will also likely be less in 2022 although 2021 DASH costs are higher than previous year's weed control costs using chemicals.

Lois reported on 2021 dues payments using PayPal, Venmo, Checks and cash compared with 2020 and indicated that dues collections to date are probably ahead of last year's collections at this time.

Dale French moved acceptance of the proposed 2021 budget; seconded by Kathy Studer. Motion passed.

Social Committee – Radley

Erin Radley reported on the social calendar of events planned for the year. Events planned include: 4 “Meet in the Middle” events (June 5th, July 24th, August 21st, and September 11th); Ice Cream boats (the Phipps and Rice families will be operating these boats) and a Boat Parade with a “Super Hero” theme on July 4th; and 2 Children’s Fishing Challenges (July 30 and August 2nd). There will be a \$5 charge for the fishing events to offset the cost of a bag of fishing tackle for the children. Erin said that she would drop off the fishing tackle to participants. She indicated that an additional social event at Moose Ridge is a possibility. Finally, Erin indicated that she welcomes other suggestions for social events from the membership.

Kathy Studer requested that pictures of the types of fish in our lakes be posted on the SLIC website. Jon Kuznicki indicated these pictures will be posted on the site.

Welcome Committee – Bock

Lyn Bock mentioned that she has a supply of Welcome Notebooks which will be given to new residents to introduce newcomers to our lake and area. The notebooks will include various information on Green Oak Township, our bylaws, various low-cost Silver Lake magnets and the new 2021 Michigan Boating Handbook. The Notebooks will be hand delivered by members of the committee or directors that live near the newcomers.

Planning Committee – Gessert & Eisenberg

The committee, which included member Tom Mahoney, administered the second annual SLIC Member email survey. A second survey that was sent to non-dues paying members (there was only one response to this survey). The committee discussed issues that were raised by the member survey as well as improvements to the Sumpter lot, possibility of Silver Lake signage and how to preserve Silver Lake as a “private” lake.

Boating Safety Committee – Bakhaus

The member survey identified significant concerns regarding boating safety on our lake. To address this issue, the board formed a committee chaired by Mary Bakhaus, and with directors Lyn Bock, Chris Williams, Jon Kuznicki, Greg Gessert and a volunteer, Roger Ratkowski. The committee met on 2 occasions. The committee recommended to the board that the SLIC actively publicize boating safety classes, provide incentives for young people on the lake to take these classes and encourage all SLIC members to acquire a

boating safety certificate. Committee members reviewed all Michigan boating laws and developed a summary of various state laws that seemed particularly relevant to our lake. This summary along with references to the actual language of the laws will be posted on the new SLIC website. The committee, through Roger Ratkowski, contacted Sgt. Knapp the local Sheriff deputy assigned to boating law enforcement in our county. Roger indicated that Sgt. Knapp was very helpful and offered to assist us in the future. At Roger's request, Sgt. Knapp identified key boating safety laws. Sgt. Knapp agreed to send us copies of the new state boating safety handbook for distribution to our members.

Mary reported that that boating safety classes offered at Wilson Marine and elsewhere would be publicized on the SLIC website. Mary also highlighted a few state laws that are relevant to personal watercraft operation and no-wake laws. It was noted that SLIC bylaws are more restrictive than state laws regarding no-wake hours.

Greg mentioned that he had also discussed boating safety on our lake with Lt. Tom Wanless, the state DNR boating safety coordinator. Lt. Wanless mentioned that it is more difficult for conservation officers to enforce state boating laws on private lakes such as ours. He indicated that we could have a resident who has access to a launch to be deputized to let conservation officers or law enforcement officers on our lake. The board may consider this in the future. Lt. Wanless also indicated that he would send us extra state boating safety handbooks.

Dan Studer mentioned that loud noise and operating boats and drinking are also frequently problems on our lake.

Bylaw Committee - Gessert, Bock, Bakhaus

Greg briefly described the history of the Silver Lake Improvement Corporation bylaws and the extensive and careful process that the board had followed to develop a package of recommended amendments to update those bylaws. He noted that the board presented bylaw amendments at last year's annual membership meeting and conducted a Zoom meeting on April 22, 2021 to give members an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed bylaw changes and to offer additional suggestions. At its May 6, 2021 meeting the board reviewed these suggestions and other input from the bylaw committee. After a further careful review, the board passed a motion to recommend that the package of bylaw amendments be passed without amendments by the membership.

Lyn Bock offered a motion that the proposed bylaw amendments be approved by the membership; Mary Bakhaus seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Greg thanked the current board and last year's board for their careful review of the Bylaw Committee's recommended bylaw changes. He also thanked volunteers, Milan Obrenovich and Kathy Studer and director Jon Kuznicki for their work on the bylaw amendments.

Water Quality/Dam – French, Gessert

Dale French indicated that the Silver Lake dam was closed last year on October 31st last year and opened per the old SLIC bylaws on March 1st.

Greg mentioned that a resident had raised a question with him whether in the future we should consider not opening the dam in the fall to conserve our lake water. Greg noted that our bylaws require that the dam be opened in October to lower water levels to keep Winter ice off lake seawalls. However, that as a result of this member's inquiry, he contacted a couple of area seawall contractors regarding this issue. One of the contractors contacted volunteered to inspect our dam. The contractor indicated that the dam appeared to be in good condition and estimated that our lake water level is down about 9". The contractor recommended continuing to lower the lake level in the fall. Dale indicated that there is an established procedure to determine the official average water level of a lake. This is a complex process primarily used for lakes with dams that are fed by rivers and streams to balance riparian property owner concerns about flooding and maintaining desirable water levels.

Jon Kuznicki asked if our dam maintenance costs needed to be budgeted. Dale indicated that he has lubrication for the dam which he uses. He mentioned that there are no new costs associated with this as he has an adequate supply of this lubrication.

Dale also briefly described the PLM report on water quality of our lake which PLM rates as "very good" (regarding phosphorus and E. coli levels). Dale also monitors our water clarity which he described as very good, especially early in the boating season.

Greg said that his sampling of our lake water for E coli and State EGLE department testing of our water samples indicate that our E. coli levels are not high or at hazardous levels. He mentioned however that a couple of areas on the lake did have somewhat elevated E. coli levels. He indicated that he will draw samples from those areas this Summer.

There was discussion of a past petition effort to have a sewer system on our lake. The petition drive failed. Greg mentioned that Matt Borlang indicated that Silver Lake is one of the largest lakes in Livingston County without a sewer system. Dale said that Fonda Lake and Whitmore Lake both needed to spend large sums to correct water quality on their lakes when some of the residents' septic systems failed.

Greg Burk asked whether last year's PLM seaweed chemical treatment caused a fish kill? Dale indicated that he contacted PLM about this and they indicated that it didn't. Dale noted that PLM uses chemicals approved by the state and works under a state permit.

DASH- French and Gessert

Dale indicated that we have been issued a 5-year permit by the DNR to use DASH on our lake and the DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Hose) contractor is scheduled to be on the lake beginning June 26th. He said that the DASH approach has been used very successfully on Higgins Lake for several years. Dale thanked Chris Williams for permitting the DASH contractor to house his equipment and mobile home on his property while the milfoil removal process is underway. Our contract provides for 8-days of milfoil removal.

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association – French

Dale indicated that the SLIC has been a member of this association for 20 years. Over the years the MLSA has provided very useful information to our organization. The current focus of MLSA is optimizing lake shoreline vegetation. The MLSA is trying to address problems on some Michigan lakes associated with fertilizing grass right up to the water's edge and thereby causing algae and other problems.

Boat Launch Update – Williams

Chris Williams was not on the call at this point. Greg indicated that he would pass along any new information on email to members regarding the status of the Arms/Wirwille launch to members if there is any change or update after talking with Chris.

Wendy Storey asked if there could be a lock box placed on the launch for paid members so that Debbie Wirwille or Chris wouldn't have to be bothered for us to get our boats on the lake. Kathy Studer mentioned that she had asked Chris and Debbie for their cell numbers in the past so she could be sure that one of them would be available to take the required fee and unlock the launch. Kathy indicated that they were both happy to give her the numbers. Greg said he would bring this up at the next board meeting.

SLIC Website Committee – Kuznicki

Jon Kuznicki indicated that the website committee, had worked with Steve Showerman on the development of the SLIC website. The site is still being developed and new content is being added to the site. Anyone who has an interest in developing, maintaining the site should contact him. Jon indicated that the website is currently on a free temporary URL but a permanent site would be explored in the future. Jon thanked Steve for his work on the site and Lyn Bock for her work on the committee.

New Business

Lyn Bock indicated that members wanting to contact the board should use the silverlakeimprovementcorp@gmail.com email address. She also said that she set up a silver lake Instagram account for messages and photos. Jon also mentioned that there is a Silver Lake facebook site and that site has a separate page for announcements.

Adjournment

There was being no further new business, Greg asked for a motion to adjourn. Andy Eisenberg made the motion; which was seconded by Bill Beam. The motion was passed at 8:45.