

Friends of Silver Lake Board Annual Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2025 at Golden Township Park - Silver Lake

Call to Order: 9:36AM ET

Board Present: Hayden, Dodge, Elrod, Simons, Dykstra

Community Presentations & Discussions

Silver Lake State Park & MDNR – Updates from MDNR and Silver Lake State Park Supervisor, Josh Smith.

- Launch & Leave program emphasized; reminder to avoid parking on grass shoulders and to act as good stewards.
- Yield signs added in the ORV area; concerns raised about signage placement and traffic hazards.
- Long-term planning: updated 5-year park plan still in progress.
- Trail development: requests for marked nature trails; DNR noted Lansing approval is required for official designation.

Silver Lake Improvement Board (SLIB) – Updates from SLIB President, Chuck Persenaire.

- Carp culling via electro-shocking discontinued due to high costs and low effectiveness.
- Eurasian Milfoil: 10-acre patch identified and under monitoring; not actively treated to prevent spread.
- Biochar filters: mixed feedback, still considered experimental with a 5-year monitoring commitment.
- Nutrient runoff concerns: continued washouts at 18th Avenue; responsibility lies with Township and Road Commission.
- Governance: Improvement Board operates independently of FoSL with taxing authority, focused solely on lake health.

Oceana County Sheriff Department – Updates from Ryan Schiller, Undersheriff.

- Promoted the “Limited Access Dune Community Forum” for local safety coordination.
- Traffic study results: Average speed on North Shore Drive was 25.9 mph in a 35 mph zone, with 2,600 vehicles daily.
Accident data shared: 70 dune-related injury accidents in 2024, including 2 fatalities; consistent with prior years.
- Law enforcement resources: New Silver Lake patrol boat expected this year (still raising funds for a boat lift). A part-time deputy is stationed in Silver Lake for the critical summer months.

Golden Township Board – Updates from Bill Kolenda, Trustee.

- Fire & Rescue enhancements:
 - On-dune EMTs now staffed during holiday weekends for faster emergency response.
 - Community donations and grants funded a \$50,000 Polaris rescue vehicle with full medical extraction equipment.

- Township built a dedicated barn and well to support firefighting operations near the lakeshore community.
- Addressing community growth: Ongoing challenge balancing tourism growth with preserving community character.
- Township governance: New zoning administrator appointed; residents encouraged to reach out with questions.
- 18th Street washout: Township and Road Commission are actively working on solutions.

Friends of Silver Lake - Year-in-review – Updates from Hayden on the Silver Lake Legacy Campaign progress, what's needed and how community/property owners can get involved:

- Thanks to those who have donated to FoSL, including support from both property owners and businesses in the community.
- Kids Carp Cull event was a great success and impactful to not only engage the community, but also remove invasive carp from the lake.
- Partnerships with DNR, Golden Township, and the Improvement Board (SLIB) continue to be strengthened to coordinate efforts within the lakeshore community.

June 2024 Annual Board Meeting Minutes Motion to approve the annual minutes from 2024 as presented by Hayden, by Stephanie Hughes. Seconded by Elrod, motion carries.

2025 Annual FoSL Treasury Report - Updates from the board on the treasury report from the past year. As of June 2025, total fiscal year expenses of \$1,573.04 and income of \$2,757.56. FoSL retained a balance of \$14,398.38 as of the end of May 2025.

2025 Public Comments - Conversations were open for public comment, with the following feedback/comments made for consideration and discussion of the FoSL board:

- Concerns raised about fertilizer use around the lake community and nutrient runoff into the lake.
- Feedback provided on septic system regulations and the impact this could have on property owners and the environment.
- Questions regarding grant renewals and future shoreline and water quality management strategies for the long-term.

2025 Board Elections - Voting for available/open positions took place for those seeking re-election or joining. Of consideration were:

- Marty Hayden – returning - 3 year term (2025-2028)
- Stephanie Hughes – new - 3 year term (2025-2028)
- Chip Corwin – new - 3 year term (2025-2028)
- Lisa Corwin – new filling open - 1 year term (2025-2026)

Motion to approve board elections by Hayden, seconded by Dodge. Motion carries.

End of Presentations & Discussions 11:30 ET

Adjournment: 11:45AM ET