

Silver Creek Lakes 2017 Fish Committee Meeting Minutes

The Fish Committee met on February 22, 2017 at 4:00pm to discuss all matters associated with our fishery. Those present were Les Anderson, Rocky Mangini, Dennis Cuchiara, Joe Bower, and Mark Kennedy.

First, we discussed the quality of the fish that we stock and the fishing experience by anglers this past year. We all agreed that the fish we did stock held up well, we continue to have excellent hold over and now even some significant natural spawning on the property. We have introduced crayfish into Lake #3 and are hoping for some natural reproduction as a great feed source. We reviewed the lake/pond weed spraying that was done last year, which did work well, but continue to fine tune this year's program. We decided to not introduce more grass carp to the property this year, but continue to monitor whether we see any or see benefits from their prior introduction.

As we never know in the winter when ice is on how well our fishery will hold up, we voted to commit \$5,500 to spot stocking the property this year, which is the same as last year. As prices continue to move higher for fish, that does mean fewer fish. That stocking will take place with two stockings this year, by two different hatcheries. Although we have been generally happy with the fish we have purchased, the hatchery we have been using has not been as 'helpful' as we believe they should be. It should be noted that approximately 70% of that budgeted amount has been historically paid from the generous donations of our members. That means approximately \$1,650 of Association dues money will go to fish stocking, or approximately only 7% of our dues receipts. The Fish Committee continues to review how well we as a group are honoring proper catch and release procedures, as well as kill rules. These two factors are very important to controlling our stocking plans – i.e. better compliance means a better fishery and will reduce our cost to provide it. Guest monitoring is crucial to this issue. We also discussed (which we have almost every year) a guest fishing charge, or rod fee, past a certain annual guest number per member. Along those lines, we have reached out to other fishing clubs to see how they have handled this issue. What we have determined is that we do need a better way to know how many guests actually use the property, for how many days a year, and do they fish or not, etc. With that in mind, we will begin a new guest check-in procedure with a new access box. Our guest check-in up to now has been only for unaccompanied guests, which we had determined is virtually none. This check-in will be for all non-direct relation guests. We will work on making it simple and easy as to not create a cumbersome issue. This data should assist us in future planning. It is actually data that our insurance carrier wants us to provide anyway, as they try to determine their liability risk on the property.

After further discussion on all of these issues, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.