

Fall Meeting Agenda
Birch Hills Sportsman Club
August 26 2023

NOTE LOCATION!! Hamilton Township Hall

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

1) Welcome, pledge of allegiance, recognize any new members

- Rick welcomed everyone and gave a huge thank you to Steve Blackburn for making the newly designed badges. We love it!
- Rick asked if there were any new members in attendance. There were no new members.
- Rick also reminded everyone of why we bumped the meeting to late August. It was so a work day could be held on the same day as the meeting and not interfere with hunts that occur in September.
- We did the Pledge of Allegiance

2) Call meeting to order

- Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m.

3) Secretary's Report, (Kristi Teall) requires motion of approval

- Secretary's report approved. Motion by Steve S. seconded by Fred S.

4) Treasurer's Report, (Ron Vasich) requires motion of approval

- Ron reported that the club will go through the 6115.80 listed on the budget pages this year and he will have to break into the CDs. He will split it into 4 cd's. Ron reviewed all expenses. There were no questions.
- Attention was given to:
- There will be a \$289.00 fee to renew the website.
- The Township rental is budgeted at \$350.00. A pavilion is going to be built and will be much cheaper (\$50.00 tentatively). Ron wants to budget \$100.00 instead of the \$350.00. Motion made by Steve. S, Bob G. seconded the motion.
- Ron budgeted \$4000.00 for food plot maintenance. Last year was more expensive because we rented a trailer and equipment to brush hog some trails. Rick requested he put \$1500.00 for brush hog and mowing and subtract it from the \$5327.99 so it reflects accurately.
- Steve Blackburn was asked if he needed badge supplies. His response was no. Steve did ask if we could allocate dollars for tree planting. White pines would be a good

choice. We allocated \$400.00 for trees. We will purchase them in the spring and plant them.

- Kristi Teall raised an awareness of our budget as we continue to go into the red yearly and that we need to be cognizant of that. Rick said that was normal and we replenish the budget with a new harvest.
- Motion was made by Fred S. to approve an adjusted treasurer's report. Seconded by Steve Blackburn.

5) Old Business

a. Big Buck contest – Please bring any antlers for measurement!!

i. Reinforce clubs 6 point or better rule

- Congratulations Megan for winning the big buck contest. You win two badges for the current hunting season!

b. Food Plot update

- During the work day today, they pulled fences and posts by plot 1.2, pushed back trees and brush from trails, and cut downed trees.
- Steve S. reported the food plots didn't do well this year due to the drought. He re-tilled and replanted with oats and rye. Food is coming up. He did try to water but the weather simply did not cooperate. Rick said radishes are coming up in 1.2
- Rick also mentioned that alfalfa might be a good option for sandy soil but it comes with its own set of issues. This may not be a good option after all. Fred S. mentioned winter rye would be a good choice, Steve S. said that is what is in there.

c. Tree Harvest Update/Vote

- Rick is still working to get with the logging guys to survey and tag trees. We are not in a position to do logging this winter but maybe next winter.
- He reminded everyone of when the forester was out and that he was concerned with Beech blight and Oak Wilt. He said the beech trees will get the blight if we don't cut them so we might as well get money for them while we can. Spraying is too costly and not a viable option. Gate 2 has mature aspens. Gate 1 has a few select trees.
- This will be a select cut NOT a clear cut.

6) New Business

a. Fall meeting date discussion – keep late Aug or return to Sept?

- We will stay with the late August date for the future.
- 2024 meeting dates are: May 4, 2024 and August 24, 2024.

b. Discussion on tree stands/ground blinds

i. Removal by Jan 15??

ii. Eliminate having to remove altogether??

iii. Reinforce that ALL BLINDS/STANDS must be tagged with lot # and date

iv. Reinforce that date can only be current year + 1 yr

- Lots of discussion around removal and what blinds need to be made of (natural materials/no man made materials). For now we will enforce the rules.
- A committee has been set up to review these bylaws and to present a new and updated bylaw(s) at the spring meeting. (Ernie Teall, Steve Swosinski, Jim Gee, and Josh Watson)
- It was reinforced that blinds MUST be maintained and MUST be labeled. The label must include the date (this year and one year out) and lot number. Please follow this as it is the right thing to do for all members. Members need to focus on labeling their treestands and maintaining them.
- If a blind is not labeled it can and will be removed (photos should be taken before and after removal). The photos can be placed on our closed, member's only facebook page so members are aware of where their items are. If removed, the items will be placed by the signs near the gates.

c. Future directors/officers – Need Volunteers!!

- Rick asked for members to consider volunteering for director or officer positions. We always need more volunteers and would welcome them.

7) Officer elections

- Steve Graves will maintain his VP position.
- Ron Vasich will maintain his Treasurer's position.
- Kristi Teall will maintain her Secretaries position.
- Rick Whisler is stepping down from the President's position but will remain a Director.
- We had two members willing to run for President. Steve Swosinski and David Miller. Each shared information about themselves and their vision for the club. David Miller was selected as President following a vote of the members present at the meeting. Thank you both for your willingness to run for this position and to lead our club! We appreciate you!
- Thank you for your service Rick Whisler!

8) Meeting adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. motion made by Josh Wagner and seconded by Fred Storage

9) Badge sales

- Badges will remain \$10.00 for this year and we will post a listed of purchased badges on the closed member only FB page. Rick will post.

Notice!! Work day on August 26 @ 10:00 am. Plan

to meet inside gate 1 with the following projects:

- Remove trees restricting access along trail inside gate 1
- Remove fencing and posts from fruit trees near FP 1.2

Note: Meeting minutes and agendas will only be sent out electronically (via email, BHSC website and Facebook page). This is to save club money and time for our officers.