

# **Birch Hills Sportsman Club**

P.O. Box 994

Harrison, Michigan 48625

## **Minutes of the September 27, 2014 Birch Hills Sportsman Club Meeting**

**Meeting** was called to order by President Rachel at 7:05 PM. There were 38 lots represented. The spring '14 minutes were reviewed and highlighted upon by President Rachel: 2yr CD, Timber outcome, tree planting, FMP revisit, liability insurance and badge purchases. No approval needed for minutes. Treasurer report was given by Andrea Pratt—at the last meeting the report was incorrect the correct amount should have stated \$3976.22 in the checking account. Treasurer Pratt has made current copies of the most recent bank statement, which shows a balance of \$3355.48 in the checking account. There will also be another deposit on Monday (9/29) from badge sales. Badges sold for the 2013/2014 season totaled 103 with a total of \$1030. CD interest rate is much improved by doing a 10yr. The \$11,265.81 CD accrued \$42.10 interest and the 3365.61 accrued \$11.53, with a total value of \$14,685.05. As of 8/25/2014 the total between all accounts is \$31,523.01. A motion was made to accept the report and was unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

**Forest management plan (FMP) status**-the Federal grant that the club was seeking was cancelled after the government requested ss# and total income for all members. President Rachel reached out to Paul Call associated with Muma sawmill (Ash tree logging winter '14), he agreed to write/develop a FMP for the west side of the BHSC property only, for free, which was completed in late August '14. To summarize the forester's plan suggest small pockets of 30 acres of mature softwoods (Aspen, soft Maple, Birch) would be harvested every 3 years with 1 of 3 areas being targeted for Winter 2015 harvest. Much discussion as to what happened to previous FMP (1991), how much was/ was not followed, membership needs flexibility whether to cut every 3 yrs. for the next 50 years-should be revisited every 3yrs with membership deciding who will harvest and where. Rick (#5) made a motion to adopt this FMP to do a tentative harvest of a section by vote on it, every 3 years. Don (#97) second motion. Discussion-staging areas, access, trails will need to be widen. Vote- 32 YES, 5 NO; motion carried. A motion by Steve (#54, 55) to keep the 300 ft. buffer throughout the property, second Linda (#61), third Chuck (# 3, 4) motion passed. A motion by Steve (#54, 55) to proceed to harvest an area this winter (2015), Paul (# 105) second. Discussion- Steve B. felt it was too soon after the east side harvest, should wait 1-3 yrs. Vote- 21 YES, 3 NO motion passed. Which area to harvest vote: Area #1=16, Area #2=17, Area # 3=1. Area # 2 will be harvest in the winter of 2015. Tree committee members include Brent (# 145,146), Ron (#5), Steve (#117,118), Chuck (#3, 4). A motion was made to allow up to \$1000 for an independent forester to set boundaries, mark, review contract and for cleanup. This forester must work for BHSC with no affiliation to the sawmill. Discussion – why hire someone else, questions of types of trees, trust issues, independent forester was hired for Oak hill. Vote- 21 YES, 4 NO. Motion passed. **Insurance status**- was cancelled due to high risk a refund was sent to BHSC minus 1 month. President Rachel has a quote of \$800 for officers/directors from another company. Motion was made to get insurance for the officers/directors. Discussion- bring in lawyer to discuss matter. Vote 0 YES, unanimous NO. **Food Plots**-Randy is doing a great job, all 3 plots are doing well, lots of deer prints. **Locks**- combination will be changed in the fall when new season badges are sold; effective immediately.

### **New Business**

**Vehicle Operating Proposal**- the proposal reflects current rules, with the attention of no motor vehicles in the interior. Motion to adopt to rules- Don (#11) second Randy (# 14) Discussion-Les (#142) brought up the rules form the minutes of September 1996. We need to place parking signs to correct the problem. **NO RULES HAVE BEEN CHANGED. PARKING IS ALLOWED IN THE COMMONS AREA DURING BOW AND GUN SEASON.** Steve (# 54, 55) will show where the parking areas are and will provide the post. Les (#142) will have the signs made. \$150 will be set aside for the signs and post. **Deer Blind Map**- safety concerns item tabled until Harry returns. **SOM Grant** was pulled by Rick Whisler # 5) **Voting Ballot**— Les (# 142) made a motion to vote all proposed candidates as printed on roster to positions. Bob (# 58) second. Vote: unanimous. The officers and directors for the Birch Hills Sportsman Club are: President- Todd Rachel (# 15, 102), Vice President – Randy Noe (# 100), Secretary- Rick Whisler (# 5), Treasurer- Ron Vasich (# 6, 7), Director 1- Harry Leadbetter (A3), Director 2-Randy Vasold (#14), Director 3- Fred Storage (#101). A unanimous vote to trash the abandoned tree stand due to liability issues. **Expenses** were approved and dispersed by outgoing Treasurer Pratt. **Badge sales** commenced.

**Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM.**

Susan Madej, Secretary      October, 2014