

Birch Hills Sportsman Club Fall Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Whisler at 6:39 p.m. We did not do the Pledge of allegiance due to the absence of a flag. Our location was changed to the city park in Harrison due to the Executive Orders limiting indoor gatherings. We began the meeting recognizing new property owners and members new to our meetings: David Miller, lot 34 and Steve Lindbloom, A4.

Secretary's Report:

Todd Rachel and Bob Grignon moved to accept and seconded the minutes from the Sept. 14, 2019 meeting. The spring meeting and the June potluck were both canceled due to the Covid lockdown.

Kristi Teall, secretary, brought up a suggestion made by Linda Jones to add phone numbers of the board members to the agendas and minutes in an effort to make it easier for lot owners to contact us. Not all lot owners have internet, Facebook, or technology to see the information there. I also added we should add our website address and Facebook page to the agenda and minutes. We will begin with that immediately. Linda shared her rationale behind the request. We supported her recommendation. GREAT IDEA LINDA!

Treasurer's Report:

Ron asked for questions. He stated we cashed in 2 CDs. He left the 2 large CDs alone. He had told us in the fall of 2019 that he was going to do this and simply reported that he followed through on that action. This was done to maintain a balance in the club checking account so that we are not charged for it.

Rick thanked Steve and Betty for making the badges again. (Big Applause)

Our subscription for the website will run out in December 2020. We will talk later in the meeting about this.

Rick proposed we add the pot luck back into the budget for June of 2021. Ron will budget 200.00 for that.

Todd Rachel wondered about adding dead tree removal in the budget. Rick said we would be talking about that also later in the meeting. Our oak trees are being impacted by oak wilt and gypsy moths. A reminder was given to NOT trim oak trees before November. Rick suggested adding 400 for stump removal in food plot 1.3. We'd like to wait until winter to remove the trees and stumps. We will then reseed with clover.

Todd checked the bee hive and thought it was "cool".

Bob Grignon asked Chuck Pardue about putting a ring around a tree to break the root system so oak wilt doesn't travel. The other option is to remove the stump and flip it over.

A question was raised about fallen trees. If it falls over a path may it be cut? Rick said yes and we will talk about that later in the meeting. This is important to maintain the trails.

Ron said the badge income was 330, down from previous years.

Bob Grignon asked about Highland Forestry line item. Rick said they did our food plots. We did some of the work ourselves. This is the second year with Joel doing our food plots.

Todd Rachel and Bob Grignon moved and seconded approving the treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Final reading of the bylaws took place. Read by Rick Whisler.
There were some questions and clarifications

Rick mentioned the idea of possibly consolidating all documents in one to help monitor and maintain. This is just a thought as it could make it more confusing.

Bob Grignon asked if we had to go through a lawyer to make changes. Rick said no, only had to do it for the protective covenant.

It was requested to list all lots for sale on our website and add them to our bulletin board as many folks are interested in purchasing lots in our club. We agreed this would be a good idea.

Linda Jones added to the conversation that the interior of our club is so beautiful and would like to keep any changes/cuttings to a minimum. She would prefer that we not clear cut. She requested we pick and choose what can go but not to clear cut. A small area is ok but not a huge area. Rick appreciated the comments and reported the forestry plan states the areas that are too mature and need to be maintained. We are slated to do another cutting in a year to two. We had good discussion around this. We do keep the trails and the club maintains them. Rick proposed the board get the company here and see what they are looking for. He is going to bring in the Clare County Action. We will definitely put effort into complete conversation around forestry plan and keep better control of selective cuttings.

Ernie Teall reported it was 7:30 p.m. The reading of the Bylaws continued.

B. Club Food Plot Planting

This is going well. Rick bought stuff and Joel spread it for us. Food Plot 3.1 has winter oats that reseeded itself but is very weedy. Next year we would plant something different. It needs to be moved. Rick will mow it and said Rye would be a good choice to pilot in that area.

C. Big Buck Contest

A reminder was given to everyone that if you get a 6 pt. or more to bring it in to be seen and the payout is 2 free buttons for next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Website: We will be moving to a new platform. It was requested that photos be submitted to put on website. Any property pictures would be great: nature, deer, mushrooms, trees, etc.... We will convert to new software and then convert the website. Ron Vasich said there is a lady by Lake George that can do the conversion. He will get the name to Rick. We need someone to maintain this site. If you are interested, let us know.
- B. Bee Hive: Hopeful this would help with our apple production. The hive is in place. It was knocked over after three weeks (not by a bear, probably a raccoon or something small). Rick fixed it and put an electric fence around the hive. Rick treated the hive. Linda Jones made a motion to expand the hive and have the club help pay for it. Rick said he wants to make sure it is successful first. If it is, then we can revisit financial support.
- C. Tree removal in food plot 1.3 and dead oaks in 1.2. We already discussed this earlier in the meeting so we didn't discuss it further other than to say the dead oaks would be cut after the ground was frozen...probably in February.
- D. Tree trimming rules and damage. There is a lot owner that has girdled 14 trees. This member has been a member for several years but only seasonal. We do have precedence that we do fine people for damage to the club property. Restitution will be requested. Along with the bill, there will be a reminder sent that you cannot cut trees in the commons area: standing dead or alive. We must leave them alone. Girdling trees is cutting a tree and considered damage to club property. Ron Vasich will leave posts by the apple trees but will remove fencing and will talk to Randy Vasold about trimming.
- E. Tree stand and ground blinds removal rules
- F. Election of Officers: All agreed to stay on. Randy Vasold and Bob Grignon will stay on as Directors. Brent Weston stepped down as a director. Jim Kirby was asked to be a Director and accepted. Dan is also interested in being a Director. A proposal was made for both Dan and Jim to serve as Directors. Todd Rachel made a motion to approved that proposal. It passed.

Prior to adjourning the meeting Krisi Teall asked for an update of lot 90 cleanup. Rick said he would follow up but didn't have an update.

It was also requested to touch on the Gypsy moth millage. It was clarified there was a millage on the ballot for November. If it passes, they will spray in the spring. Bob Grignon complemented the board and the directors for what we are doing! It was also shared that Les Bruno, long time member passed away. Rich shared information about Les.

Motion to adjourn by Todd Rachel and seconded by Jake Fowler.

Contact information:

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