

Birch Hills Sportsman Club Fall Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Whisler at 6:37 p.m. which included the Pledge of allegiance. Our location was changed to the city park in Harrison due to the continued pandemic presence and limitations with indoor gatherings. Bob Grignon suggested a moment of silence for those who are not with us any more.

Secretary's Report

The Fall 2020 meeting minutes were presented and Todd Rachel indicated that Debbie Blackburn's name was incorrectly listed as "Betty". This was acknowledged the meeting minutes were approved above mentioned correction.

Treasurer's Report:

Ron Vasich was unable to make the meeting but did send along an updated treasures report. We are on track with spending for the year however we did have to refile our club covenants with the State of Michigan. Our attorney handled this before year end which resulted in an additional \$570 costs that were not planned in 2020. The treasurer's report was approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

Workday update: Thanks to the couple of folks who made it out to clear trails. Several large trees were removed from inside gate 1 and also some from gate 2 on the east side. Steve Graves pulled stakes and fencing from the apple trees on the east side to allow for better access to them for harvesting fruit and also trimming.

Food plots: These will be tilled and planted on June 5th. This is later than expected due to Joel Felsk (Highland Forestry) taking a teaching job and conflicts with the school schedule. We will spread Dairy Doo and plant the Triple Threat seed mix again. Food plots 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 3.1 were all planted with this seed mix. Plots 1.3 and 2.2 have clover in them. Unfortunately, plot 2.2 is not doing as good as expected so we'll have to consider possibly an annual seed mix for that. If anyone in the club has a small tractor (bigger than a lawn tractor!) with a brush hog or mower deck and would be willing to mow the clover plots that would be greatly appreciated! Todd Rachel indicated that food plots 1.1 and 3.1 had a lot of thistle growing. Rick Whisler has a spray bar and tank for his quad and plans to spray all the plots (except clover) with round-up to kill weeds prior to tilling and planting.

The website subscription was also renewed which allowed us to retain our website name however the entire site has had to be rebuilt on this new platform. Please visit our site (Birchhsc.com) and provide suggestions for improvements.

Gypsy Moth: Clare is expected to be spraying this year however it is unclear where and when this will take place. More to come on this.

Big Buck Contest: Some doe's were taken however no one has stepped forward for antlers to be judged. Remember, lot owner (winner) of contest receives two free badges for the following year!! Please bring in your antlers!!

Bee Hive Update: Unfortunately, the hive died. This is not surprising as Rick lost all his other 3 hives as well. Late fall warm weather may have contributed to this. Rick is working to obtain another group of bees to populate the hive.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tree Harvest: Rick tried to meet with the Clare county forester however this was hampered due to hunting season and then the growing concerns with Covid. He is working to schedule a time to walk through the property with her to get suggestions for future logging. One suggestion was to consider selective cutting to open up areas vs clear cutting.

Bridge connecting the East and West sides: There was lots of discussion again about erecting a bridge over spikehorn creek. There was one some time ago however that was removed due to the structure failing. Having a bridge would be great for accessing the other sections without having to travel on a county road. It was suggested to use a drone to "fly" the creek and possibly find a suitable location to cross.

Other Possible Projects:

Pavilion for gatherings

Well for watering on the west side

Bushes for wildlife such partridge, pheasant, rabbits, etc

Other trees such as pear or peaches

September 11th is the fall meeting. Typically we have a workday that morning however this falls on the Youth and Disabilities hunt. Our goal is to avoid negatively impacting anyone who is hunting. We also don't want a safety issue with folks not wearing hunter orange while doing maintenance. We may want to consider rescheduling the Fall meeting to avoid these conflicts. Possibly move future meetings into August?

Meeting was adjourned

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