

Spring Meeting Minutes
Birch Hills Sportsman Club

May 6, 2023

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Hamilton Township Hall

- 1) Welcome, pledge of allegiance, recognize any new members
 - a. Rick welcomed everyone at the meeting and recognized new members (Nicole and Adam Shipman)
 - b. It was stated that this was one of our larger spring meetings (14 in attendance in addition to the board)
 - c. We stood and did the pledge of allegiance
- 2) Call meeting to order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.
- 3) Secretary's Report, (Kristi Teall) requires motion of approval
 - a. Kristi Teall requested that everyone double check minutes regarding accuracy due to the fact she was not present at the fall 2022 meeting and put the minutes together from notes taken from others.
 - b. The approval was tabled until the end of the meeting to give all in attendance to reflect accuracy of minutes.
 - c. Minutes were approved at the end of the meeting. Motion by Steve S., Seconded by Ernie T.
- 4) Treasurer's Report, (Ron Vasich) requires motion of approval
 - a. Ron reported balance of accounts
 - b. He discussed the CD and wanted to break it into 4 \$5,000 CDs but it would have cost us money to do that. It may make sense in the future, but for now we'll leave it.
 - c. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Motion by Larry G., Seconded by Steve. S.
- 5) Old Business
 - a. Big Buck contest – Please bring any antlers for measurement!!
 - i. We had one set of antlers brought in. It was a pretty head mount.
 - ii. Congratulations Megan!
 - b. Food Plot update
 - i. Steve S. offered to put food plots in again. The club will pay him like we did in the past.
 - ii. Steve S. said nothing had been done by the spring meeting but he was planning on working on it that week. He will add manure, spread it, and then plant it.
 - c. Potluck update - **canceled for summer 2023**
 - i. If we can get someone to head up the potluck, we would love to have it back.
 - ii. Looking for someone to head up the potluck get together. If interested, call Kristi Teall at 989-388-8212.

6) New Business

- a. Fall meeting date discussion – keep 2nd Saturday in September
 - i. Cancel the fall workday to avoid conflict with hunting seasons
 - ii. We will be moving the fall meeting to the last Saturday in August (August 26, 2023). Rick asked for support from the members at the meeting and we agreed. We felt we had nothing to lose if we tried it and will be open to change it if the new date does not work)
 - iii. We are trying to avoid any conflicts such as youth hunting. If we kept this date we were putting our members in potential harm and disrupting the youth hunt.
 - iv. Other dates impacted other hunts
 - v. We have the hall set for the fall date (August 26, 2023) at 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Hamilton Township Hall. We are looking at some other options. If we change it, you will be notified on agenda, in an email, and on our BHSC Facebook page.
- b. Forestry update – Clare forester, oak/beechn disease
 - i. The club met with the new Clare County Forester and learned a lot. They were looking at the east side and oak hill. We have lots of soft wood that are mature and only going to die. Looking at hard wood on the east side, beech tree fungus was spotted. Rick is looking into doing a select harvest. He is working with 5 contract foresters to select one which will mark trees, and meet with the logger. Their role would be a liaison for the club.
 - ii. In the past we have had two clear cuttings. WE ARE NOT RECOMMENDING THAT NOW. It is being recommended to do a select cut and include fixing the roads/mess due to the cutting in the contract. We would like to select tall/mature trees to cut so small trees can grow up.
 - iii. We do have a 1991 forest management plan done by Weyerhaeuser. They walked the area, drew maps, and gave recommendations on when to cut what.
 - iv. We also have oak wilt. Inside Gate 3 we have three huge oaks that died within a year. It was stated that even dead oaks have value.
 - v. There is no determination at this point as to the amount of \$ the club can receive from the select cut. Typically, there is a straight fee or % given to the company that does the work, but we are not that far yet. Any recommendation will be brought back to the membership.
- c. Bear sightings/issues
 - i. There are bear sightings everywhere. Six members in attendance at the spring meeting have personally seen bears. Bird feeders are a “go to” for bears. It was suggested to remove them. We have lots of photos and one of our members had a visit on the ramp leading to his house. Rick thanked Steve S. and Steve B. for purchasing bushes and trees on their own for the property. They planted them on the east side. Thank you Gentlemen!!!
 - ii. Proposal to consider: It didn’t really fall under this section but it was discussed here. It has been proposed that we have a link that is only open to our closed FB group that contains the names of those that have purchased a badge to hunt in

the commons. This would help us hold each other accountable and ensure rules are being followed. This will be on the agenda for the fall meeting (August 26, 2023). It would take effect in the fall of 2023.

- iii. Another item that was brought up under this area was a reminder about ground blinds and what our rules say. We need to either follow the rules or change the rules. There will be a proposal on the fall 2023 agenda (August 26, 2023) for discussion and to vote on. Current rules state ground blinds cannot be of man made material and can be set up on Sept. 15 but must be torn down Jan. 2 of any given year. We need to be consistent and enforce what the rule is. Whatever is decided on will take effect one year later (Fall 2024)

d. Future directors/officers – Need Volunteers!!

- i. Rick announced that he will be stepping down following the fall 2023 meeting (August 26, 2023). If there is anyone interested in filling that position, you can contact me (989-388-8212) and I will forward your name to Rick. You can also contact Rick (989-859-4704) himself.
- ii. Announcement: Ticks are all over on the property. Make sure you use DEET to protect yourself.
- iii. Announcement: There have been lots of break ins on the property. Be aware and check your places.
- iv. Announcement: Please be courteous regarding hunting behind homes.

e. We adjourned at 8:06. Motion by Steve. S. Seconded by Dave Miller.

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.