

BIRCH HILLS SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

May30,2013

Minutes of the May 4, 2013 meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Todd Rachel at 7:00 P.M. There were 22 lots represented and 40 persons present.

The minutes of the Fall 2012 meeting was read and unanimously approved.

--President Rachel reviewed the accomplishments of the members during the Clean-up day. About 15 old ground blinds and tree stands were removed to the sand pit area. We had 18 lots represented and 34 persons attended the Clean-up. The trash would be removed at a latter time. Hot dogs, chips and soft drinks were served at lunchtime.

--Combination locks will be changed on January 1st of each year. People who do not buy badges will not be given new combination.

--Todd has talked to the Sheriff's Dept. about securing our property. They recommended closing access points from private property. Members need to ask strangers for I.D. Todd has created a mapping system in case you need to call the Sheriff. Motion to purchase signs for Sheriff's identification for the three gates with a \$200 cap. Motion passed. Les Bruno will look into it.

--There was discussion about giving the gate codes to the Sheriff. Some think we need more "no trespassing" signs. The new signs were \$4.50 each. There was a \$400 cap. Todd had to pay \$50 out of pocket. He would like to recover the difference. Approved.

--Todd gave business cards to everyone with the name and number of our local DNR (Conservation) officer. He is Jason McCullough at (989) 275-5151. He can answer all questions about wildlife, hunting and poaching issues. The EPA determines if a lot is buildable or not.

--Changes to the By-Laws: OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS-The State of Michigan requires all non-profits to have **seven** elected officers. Amendment to the proposed changes by Steve Oday "As directed by majority vote of attending membership of the spring and fall meeting." Elections are always held at the fall annual meeting. The Bylaw change as amended was unanimously approved.

--Article VI, Rights of Membership The proposed wording was approved with the addition that wording: "Temporary hunting blinds..." should be changed to "Ground hunting blinds...". Changes were unanimously approved

--Discussion about our current hunting practices. Some with large families think it is unfair to limit each lot to two hunters. Individual hunting rights are not transferable to other members. It was suggested to buy another lot as many have already done. Please do not nail your blinds to trees or use screw-in steps.

--Discussion about feed plots: Randy Noe will do the east-end and the Williams family will do the west end lot this year.

--Treasurer's Report: Savings account has been closed. It was costing us money as the account fee was greater than the interest gained. Balance of checking \$1,955.56 and CD's \$14,606.07. Approved.

--The Club will keep track and report on which lots buy badges. Badges can be purchased by mail for an additional \$1.00 per badge by sending a check to Andera.

--Todd is meeting with the State Forest Ranger to look over the property to make recommendations for better habitat. Report at fall meeting.

--Todd's expenses total \$154.44 (which includes the extra \$50. for the signs). Approved. Please send your email address to Todd at rachelr@att.net.

--Some of the missing hunting gear lost last fall has been returned to it's rightful owner. The issue was a misunderstanding and has been resolved.

Other things to think about for the Fall:

-Banning screw-in steps.

-Banning dirt bikes. They are noisy and destructive

-Foot bridge across the wet land. Lively discussion. Todd will contact DNR about regulations. Some are opposed.

-Discussion about planting apple and chestnut trees on the common areas.

-An operating budget will be proposed in the fall meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted: Barbara Grignon & Todd Rachel