

Birch Hills Sportsman Club Fall Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Whisler at 6:30 following the pledge of allegiance and an apology for the last-minute cancellation of the work day due to the youth hunt. New members, Jack and Paulette Fowler, lot 32, were recognized.

The Spring 2019 meeting minutes were approved and accepted as written by Todd Rachel. Bob Grignon seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Bob Grignon brought to the attention of the secretary that Lot 47 was incorrect on the paperwork. It is Jim Gibbs not Steven Shappel.

Financial report: They eliminated 1 savings account because it wasn't making money and if we went any lower, it would cost us money. It was decided to leave 250.00 in the budget for the BH dinner (June 13, 2020) . The Spring meeting date was shared (May 2, 2020). It was discussed to put dates on upcoming events on the webpage and Facebook pages. The work day is TBD.

Steve is running low on badge supplies, so he requested 300.00 to purchase supplies which should last him around 5 years.

Todd Rachel brought up that our balance didn't equal up, but Ron Vasich was able to explain it. The total assets are 41,556 as of 9-1-19. Todd made a motion for Ron to move money out of a CD to cover expenses. Ron gets to decide which CD is chosen. Eli seconded the motion.

It was also clarified that we had two stump pulls. The first was a single stump and the second was several stumps. Todd Rachel made a motion to approve the budget as amended and Bob Grignon seconded it.

Old Business:

- A. DEQ/CMU survey: They were in the common's areas. They randomly selected this area to document 1. the soil conditions/tree/brush type (any vegetation) and 2. How much moisture in the area. This has already occurred. Ron Vasich personally took them back to the commons.
- B. Food Plots: ours are looking good. We added dairy doo twice (spring and fall). Woody and Rick loaded and trucked it. They also put out 2 ½ tons the first time and a little less than 4 ½ tons the second time. The plan is to continue with applying dairy doo to help the conditions of our soil. Even buying this, we remained under budget. We planted rape, turnip and buck forage oats. Todd asked about the trees as only 3 of the apple's trees have apples on them. He wondered why? It was discussed that it could be the spring weather that we had plus we had several varieties of trees and they may come at different times. We also had some tent worms. Rick offered to bring a bee hive to help pollinate the trees but the bears may go for the honey. There was a discussion about maybe putting a fence around the hive. The Dairy Doo on the center food plot was questioned. Rick reported he was not sure what to do with 2.2 as the soil is iffy. Rick

proposed putting annuals in 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3. We need to cut down three trees that are dying in the food plot and also adding clover. He also suggested using Dairy Doo everywhere. Steve S. put up no trespassing signs all along Athey and a lot of Springwood Lake Road. Thank you, Steve. Rick requested and highly suggested if you have an open area and see tracks that are not yours to put up a barricade to keep them out.

- C. Update on Section 31/32 zoning Classification: We wanted the township to follow ours so it wasn't so confusing. They agreed to recognize 25 ft. side, 50 ft. front, and 0 back setbacks. When the map is updated it will change to R1A from R1. We have multiple issues with our members building and not going to the building committee. The process is: 1. Have a plan showing distance. 2. Contact the building committee members. 3. If approved by the building committee members, then get a zoning/building permit from the township. We currently have one person with a structure that is 6 ft into our commons area and he is being made to move it. He also has 5 structures and the township is making him fix the situation. We have another person that put a pavilion type structure in his/her front yard; the township is making him pay to get a variance. All structures must go to our building committee first. Please make sure you follow the process so you don't find yourself in this situation.
- D. Final reading of the bylaws: We've had multiple reading and we need 3. After the third we can vote. It was proposed to postpone this until the next meeting as we didn't have the highlighted paper to read only the changes. Rick explained this to new members. Rick will get forms to me and the list of who we need to get signatures from. Once I received those, I will send them out to specific individuals.
- E. Big Buck Contest: This is still going on. No winner last year. Two years ago, it was Rick Pratt. You or your guest can win. The prize is 2 badges for the lot owner. The guest, if a winner, does not get to keep the badges. They must be given to the owner.
- F. Document receipt update: 70% so far. Rick will be going to people that haven't signed to get them on board. We want and need 90%.

Rick then jumped back to food plots to remind everyone that the State of Michigan doesn't allow baiting any longer. If you have a personal food plot, you can hunt over it, but not over the club's plots. You must be 50 yards away from the clubs' food plots. Bob G asked about putting a personal food plot on the commons but anyone can hunt on it. It was asked how big a personal plot could be? The answer was unknown. If you need food plot signs, Ron V. has them. Ron is going to make a list of inventories so members can get the extra items. Ron suggested: He recommended every blind, either up or down, have blaze orange on the blind so others know you are there.

We have doubled the number of food plots in the last 5 years on club property. 1/3 is east and 2/3 of the property is west. A concern of only 1 on the east side was brought up. It was discussed that the size was part of the reason for this.

We cannot cut down any standing trees on club property. If they are leaning and over a trail or in the way then we can.

It was also brought up that Gate 3 on Springwood Lake Rd felt like it was a war zone and questioned who makes those decisions. Rick explained it's decided at the meetings and the club is simply following the harvest plan that was put together in an effort to help bedding and new growth. It is really thick in there now. It looks fantastic.

New Business:

- A. The rules for guests: The question was brought up again about whether we allow guests or not. There are lots of concerns about guest on the property. The rule requires the lot owner to be on the property together with the guest. Several suggestions to eliminate guests so Rick wanted to discuss it. This should not be happening during hunting not during non-hunting events. Only one guest for each lot and everyone has to have a badge.
- B. Tick invasion: This is probably due to the wet spring. This is just a very bad year. Be aware of it and check yourself when you come in from the woods.
- C. 3-year Director Terms: Rick reported Les Bruno had a recommendation we go to 3-year Director Terms. Randy Vasold has a 3-yr. term. Brent Weston has a 2-year term. Bob Grignon has a 1-year term.
- D. Election of Officers: We have the same slate of officers. President-Rick Whisler VP-Steve Graves Treasurer- Ron Vasich Secretary-Kristi Teall. Directors-Randy Vasold, Brent Weston, Bob Grignon

Other items: If you are co-owner on a piece of property you don't get to have an additional guest. You get one guest per lot. Again, if the guest is going to be out there, the owner must be there.

We will copy the no baiting rule in the minutes to be in conformance with the state law: SEE BELOW

Tom Stack confirmed no baiting and no feeding. It is banned in the entire lower peninsula.

Don Elsworth moved to accept the officers and directors. It was seconded by Dennis Omel.

Adjourn: Motion by Dennis Omel, seconded by Fred Storage

Baiting and feeding are banned in the Lower Peninsula, and banned in the Upper Peninsula core CWD surveillance area. In areas where baiting is banned, scents placed to entice deer, whether composed of natural or synthetic materials, must be placed so that they are inaccessible for consumption by deer and placed in such a manner to prohibit any physical contact with deer. This does not apply to urine-based products bearing the Archery Trade Association (ATA) symbol on the bottle or packaging. Hunters can still use those urine-based products for mock scrapes, drag ropes, wicks, etc.

Exception: Hunters with disabilities who meet specific requirements may use single-bite baits in the above counties during the Liberty and Independence Hunts only. Eligible hunters may begin baiting for the Liberty Hunt on September 9 this year, five days prior to when the season begins.

Single-bite baits are defined as shelled corn, nuts, beet pulp, deer feed or pellets, or wheat or other grain.

Bait volume at any hunting site cannot exceed two gallons. Bait dispersal must be over a minimum 10-foot by 10-foot area. Bait must be scattered directly on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.

To qualify, you must fit one of the following criteria:

- Be a veteran who has been determined to have 100-percent disability or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt from a standing vehicle.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt using a laser-sighting device.
- Be blind. Blind means an individual who has visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction or has a limitation of his or her field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance not greater than 20 degrees, as determined by the Commission for the Blind.