

Birch Hills Sportsman Club Fall Meeting Minutes, September 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Whisler at 6:35 p.m. which included the Pledge of allegiance. Bob Grignon also suggested that we take a moment of silence for all those lost during the September 11, 2001 attack which took place 20 yrs ago today.

Secretary's Report

The spring 2021 meeting minutes were presented and approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was presented and reviewed by Ron Vasich. Total assets of the club are \$34,716.98 as of September 1. The club received \$891 received from the sale of badges. Expenses to date are \$5340 which mostly were for food plot installation which is in line with past years. The report was approved as written. Special thanks to Ron Vasich for how clear and concise the treasures information has been!!

OLD BUSINESS:

Potluck returns June 11th at 5:30pm!! Money was set aside in this years budget to again have a potluck. It was suggested that we order a prepared meat (such as pulled pork) rather than having steaks/chicken to reduce the burden on the folks coordinating the dinner. Plan is to finalize meat selection at the spring meeting. Bob Grignon and James Kirby offered to coordinate this! Thank you!

Businesses on BHSC lots: Our bylaws state that no businesses may be run out of a house or lot on BHSC. Heath Construction is exempt from this since it was in place prior to the development of the bylaws. Unfortunately, we have a house next to gate 1 which has an ongoing "garage sale" during the summer. This has been discussed twice with the homeowners and unfortunately it continues. This is resulting in traffic congestion along M-61 and folks blocking gate 1 access. It was agreed that we need to have our attorney send a letter of violation.

Workday update: This was cancelled due to our meeting/workday taking place on the weekend of the youth deer hunt. Several people communicated that they would be hunting this morning. The workday was cancelled so as not interfere with their youth hunts and the safety of our members who might be working in the woods. This is going to be an ongoing issue if the fall meeting is held on the 2nd Saturday of September. It was suggested that future workdays or fall meetings be held in late August. More discussion to follow.

Food plots: All the food plots grew exceptionally well this year. It is suggested that we continue with the Dairy Doo and Triple Threat seed mixtures next year. Highland forestry (Joel Felsk) has suggested that the food plots be planted during the summer to allow for growth to still be in place in the fall for hunting season. \$1000 was also added to the 2022 budget for clearing the trails to food plots. If we have members who are able to do this (specifically to plots 1.1, 1.3 and 3.1) then we won't have to spend this money. There is a brush hog that can be rented in Gladwin for about \$300 which might make quick work of this.

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: No antlers were presented for measurement. Just a reminder that if you or your guest harvests a buck on club property, the lot owner with the largest rack will receive two free badges for the following year.

Bee Hive Update: A swarm was captured and placed in the bee hive by food plot 1.2. We'll continue to monitor the hive health and hopefully they make it through the winter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tree Harvest: The Clare county forester took a new position so the county is working to replace her. Once this is complete Rick will schedule a walkthrough to review what areas should be harvested. One suggestion was to consider selective cutting to open up areas vs clear cutting. It was also suggested that we contact Cooke's to see if they would consider harvesting some of the fallen trees as well as the larger oaks that have died from oak wilt. Rick will follow up on this. Todd Rachael reminded us that the initial forest management plan did not include the 300 ft buffer behind our lots. The lots and buffer zone reduce our woods by approximately 350 acres. The swamp is not able to be logged which also reduces the total acres of harvestable timber so delaying another cutting by a year or two should not be an issue.

Gypsy Moth Spraying: Clare county contacted the club about considering spraying out two sections. Unfortunately their price would be \$4600 PER ACRE!! The millage that was passed was only for residential areas so they travel down county roads spraying. They indicated that there was not funding for arial spraying of state property either so we should expect continued moth presence.

Quality Deer Management (QDM): Good discussion on quality deer management and what it is. Many members are not aware of it or what it is about. Consider having a guest speaker there for questions and answers. Rick will contact the QDMA organization to get more information.

ATV/UTV travel times during hunting seasons: There were several complaints last year about ATV/UTV's traveling on the property during prime hunting hours. Please remember that there is mid-day (10am-2pm for bow season and 11am – 1pm for gun season) travel times and respect these! There was much confusion about the use of motor vehicles before sun rise to get to a hunting blind. Below are the rules regarding this which have been in place since 1996.

Parking: Sept. 1996

During regular Deer Firearm Season, and any late firearm deer season, motor vehicles are not permitted to park on interior property except as posted on the three entrance gate signs during limited hours around midday. However, for small game hunting, for muzzle loaders, and for deer bow seasons, parking is allowed at the designated interior sites accessible through each of the three gates. All during bow season, vehicles must be parked before daylight and leave after dark (except as posted on the gate signs) so as not to disturb others who are hunting. These rules pertain to motorcycles, ATVs, golf carts as well as cars and trucks. If any member or guest wishes to cross or park on another member's property, please ask permission in advance.

REMINDER!! All ground blinds must be removed after hunting season. Need more discussion about removal of tree stands after hunting season.

Officers/Directors: All officers agreed to stay on for another year. Randy Vasold has elected to step down as a director. Thanks Randy for all your efforts!! Todd Senyko (lot 106) has agreed to take Randy's place as a director.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm

Contact information:

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