

Minutes of the May 2, 2015 Birch Hills Sportsman Club Meeting

Upon arrival members were greeted and were asked to confirm/update addresses and emails. Members were also able to pick up an agenda, proposed 2015 budget and meeting minutes from the Fall 2014 meeting.

Meeting was called to order by President Rachel at 7:00 PM. There were 25 lots represented and 29 persons present including guests. New lot owners are Wayne Jaynes (#109) and Doug Welker (#43). Todd requested that lot signs be updated. Derick Girard (#35) is the new "gate keeper". It was also noted that two of the recently installed "parking signs" in the commons area have been stolen.

The 501C7 club IRS status has been finalized and the club submitted its first federal tax documents as required by law. It was noted that a formal operating budget is needed for the club.

The minutes to the Fall '14 meeting were highlighted. Ron Vasich - Treasure (#6/7) reviewed the financial accounts in detail. The club now has access on-line to the accounting details. Approximately 114 badges were sold. The club has a total of \$46,966 (Savings \$26,076, Checking \$6,094, CD \$3,386 and CD \$11,410). CD's were closed to remove Andrea Pratt's name from them and reopened with only BHSC name on them. Both the president and treasurer signature is required for any CD withdrawals.

Steve Blackburn (#75) has purchased enough badge supplies for 3-4 years.

Ron reviewed a "proposed budget" with main categories of "administrative", "maintenance", "grounds maintenance" and "special projects".

It was suggested that a budget requirement be added to the bylaws and approved on an annual basis. Several members opposed this suggestion in that it would be too cumbersome. Steve Blackburn (#75) proposed and Les Bruno (#142) seconded that we accept the proposed budget of \$3700 (not including the "special projects") for the 2015/2016 year and it was approved.

Old Business

West Side Logging- Michigan Lumber completed the logging on the west side of the property. Cutting seemed to be much "cleaner" than that done on oak hill. Chipping could have been more complete but is adequate. The access road was damaged due to the delay in completion and the warmer weather. It was suggested that in the future we hold loggers to the required date or have future logging start earlier. Road repair is complete but will be monitored for water drainage.

Tree planting- 400 fir trees were planted today in the west logging area. Thanks to those who spent several hours to complete this. Most chestnut trees seemed to have survived the winter. Thanks to those who took the time to water the trees during the summer which was a significant aid in the trees surviving!

Liability insurance- President Rachel received a letter from his homeowners insurance that confirms he is not covered as an officer. He has indicated that he'll step down as president in September without liability coverage due to threats of being sued.

Ron Vasich suggested contacting the insurance company that Harrison Sportsman Club uses since they have experience in this area. Several estimates will be obtained for insurance and presented at the fall meeting.

New Business

It was discussed adding a pond on the west side where the historical wet area is located. The insurance estimates should include a possible pond as well as liability coverage for the board. Rick Whisler committed to talking with his Ducks Unlimited representative to better understand the clubs options for a pond.

Fruit Tree's- It was discussed planting apple trees on the east side in the decking area used by the Oak Hill logging. A motion was approved to allocate \$800 for trees, fencing and stakes for this area. Randy Vasold, Rick Whisler and Wayne Jaynes volunteered to lead the tree planting effort.

Brent Weston (#145/146) made a motion to create three 1 acre food plots in the newly logged west area which was approved. These areas will be "destumped" by Charlie Heath (#137/138) at a special reduced price of \$60/hr for the use of his equipment and time. Motion was made to move forward with approximately \$10,000 for the above special projects and was approved. Motion was made to allow the treasurer to determine the amount of available funds for a 3rd CD. Motion passed. Wayne Jaynes offered to create a members only Facebook page for BHSC. Please send Wayne an email if you are interested. Many thanks to Allan Lavigne (#A4) for free use of his fellowship hall .

Meeting adjourned 8:50 PM

Rick Whisler, Secretary
May, 2015