

Birch Hills Sportsman Club Spring Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2017

Members were greeted and were asked to confirm/update addresses and emails at the front desk. Members were also able to pick up an agenda, club financials and meeting minutes from the fall 2016 meeting.

President Rachel recognized new members or first time meeting members (George Quiroz Lot 60, Jessica Hillard Lot 64 and Matt Morrow Lot 108), welcome!

Guest speaker (Mark Janeczko – Hamilton Township Zoning Administrator/blight officer) spoke about zone requirements, restrictions and what blight is all about. Zoning leads to better housing developments. Permits are required for any construction project, if less than 100 sq ft then no permit charge. If camping on your property, a \$15 permit is required and is good for 170 days of camping. Mark handles township blight complaints such as trash, vehicles, recycling in residential areas, etc. Mark is currently working with the owner of lot 90 on Athey Rd to have it cleaned up. Hopefully this lot issue will be resolved in the next 60 days or so. Todd indicated current BHSC restrictions allow for structures 25' from side lot lines and 0' from the rear lot line. Mark understood that we had to comply with the township requirement of 50' from the rear lot line. After reading the BHSC covenants, it was found to only indicate setbacks from the side and front property lines. The club might consider petitioning the township to accept 0' from rear lot lines for BHSC.

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel at 6:58 PM.

Some target practice was taking place at the sand hill inside gate 1. Historically this was a shooting range for the club but is no longer allowed for safety reasons. Please inform anyone who is violating this rule.

Fall 2016 meeting minutes were handed out at the beginning of the meeting and were accepted as written.

Ron Vasich (lot 6/7) presented the treasures report. Income from badges was \$1,036 and the club spent \$4,932. The report included a list of all items purchased and who purchased them.

Current accounts are: Checking \$8,614 Savings \$13,587 Three CD's of \$11,655, \$3,510 and \$2000 for a club total of \$39,465. Financials were accepted and approved as written.

Linda Jones Lot 61 presented a note with concerns about how much was being spent on club improvements. President Rachel accepted the note and will include it with club records.

Old Business

Food Plots – It has been suggested that a professional food plot installation person might be more effective than we have been historically using volunteer efforts. Wayne Jaynes, Lot 109, sampled all the food plots and received quotes for preparation and spring planting of all 5 plots (approximately \$1500). Tilling and planting of the plots in the fall would be \$1250 for a total 2017 cost of \$2750 for all 5 plots (2 east side, 3 west side). Motion was made by Les Bruno Lot 142 to approve \$3000 for food plots. Motion was amended to \$4000, seconded and approved.

Forest Management - A tree harvest in the Northeast corner of section 32 inside gate 3 was reviewed by several loggers. Due to the small size (~32 acres), several loggers preferred to not bid. Michigan Lumber Co. came back with a bid of \$21,200 which was accepted. The current Forest Management Plan (FMP) details the west side of BHSC and eastward to the wetlands. An estimate for ~\$3500 was presented to complete a FMP for the east side which seemed expensive. A motion was made and approved to do additional research on obtaining a FMP for the east side of the club (Rick Whisler will follow up with Clare Forester).

Fruit and Chestnut Tree's- We have a total of 29 apple trees and 20 chestnut trees alive on our property (lost 3 chestnut over the winter). Additional fencing will be installed on the chestnut and apple trees on the east side during the May 20th work day. A total of \$950 was approved to do this during the last meeting.

Big Buck Contest – The club contest for the largest buck was postponed till next year since no one brought in antlers to be measured at the spring meeting.

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New Business

Information Boards- Wayne Jaynes has a design and estimate for two information boards. These will include maps of the property and trails. A map will be included to allow hunters to identify their general hunt stand location using push pins. A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$1000 for two boards. These will be located inside gates 1 & 2. These will be assembled and installed during September.

Alleged 12 pt Buck Violation- A letter was sent to the owners of lot 64 (Hillard) from the BHSC Board of Directors concerning several potential club rule violations over the last several years. Jessica Hillard opted to read the board letter to the members present as well as a prepared response from them to the board letter. They agreed to provide Todd with a copy of their response.

Proposed Bylaw Changes- Proposed changes in the bylaws were handed out for review. These will also be sent out prior to the fall 2017 meeting as required. A vote on the changes will take place at the fall 2017 meeting so please review and attend the next meeting!!

BHSC Social Get Together – June 10th Pot Luck dinner was a huge success!! Thanks to all who were able to come out and enjoy the food and conversation!! Special thanks to those who did the barbeque!!

Benches for trails- Chris and Susan Madej agreed to design, build and install 5 additional benches along several of the trails so folks walking can sit and enjoy the woods. A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$300 to for the 5 benches.

Duck Pond- It was suggested to revisit installation of a “duck pond” somewhere on the property. Kathy Rettelle (lot 59) agreed to do some additional research on what it would take to install and possible locations on the property.

Meeting adjourned 8:32 PM

Thanks to all members and guests for attending!!!

Your email addresses are needed!! The club spends approximately \$100 for each mailing (twice a year). In an effort to conserve our club money, we ask that every lot owner share their email address with the club if you have one. **All emails addresses are confidential** and are not shared outside the board of directors unless permission has been provided by the lot owner. If you have a new or updated email, please send a note to me at rwhisler@trinseo.com so that we can send our meeting communications electronically. Thank you, Rick Whisler, Secretary (Lot 5)