

Minutes of the September 24, 2016 Birch Hills Sportsman Club Fall Meeting

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 Spring 2016 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel at 6:33 PM. Note: New time for meeting to allow more travel time for those returning to down state.

President Rachel recognized new members (Tim Mardis Lot #90 and Ernie and Kristen Teal Lot #92), welcome!

Badges can be purchased throughout the year at lot #7 (Ron Vasich) or lot #2 (Ward Thompson). No trespassing signs can also be obtained from lot #7 (Ron Vasich)

As a 501(c)(7) club, we are now exempt from federal taxes. Please consult Todd or Ron before making purchases so we can ensure taxes are not collected. We have a tax ID letter which must be presented at the time of purchase.

Pictures of the new club watering trailer were shared. This was approved at the last meeting and has been in use to water the new fruit trees and chestnut trees around the property. It can be moved from gate to gate (using the shoulder of the road) and does not require a license as long as it is being pulled by and ATV/UTV or tractor. Ron offered to store the trailer in his barn for the winter.

Tonight's agenda and the September meeting minutes were available for everyone's review. The spring meeting minutes were approved 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 \$8,402 Savings \$13,585 CD's \$11,654 and \$3,480 for a club total of \$37,120 as of 9/24/16. Financials were approved as stated.

Old Business

Fruit and Chestnut Tree's- We have a total of 29 apple trees and 24 chestnut trees on our property now. Watering of these is essential to their survival and the watering trailer helped tremendously this past summer. Chestnut trees may require some additional fencing to reduce feeding of the tops. Two chestnuts on the east side were tore out and the pails thrown (not sure if this is the result of animals or people). We had our first apples this year from the east side trees!!

West Food Plots- Thanks to Brent Weston for planting the two new food plots with rape/turnips and the north side of the larger plot with oats. Thanks also to the folks who came out and picked sticks and rocks from the new food plots!! This will save wear and tear on equipment as we replant these over the next several years.

East Food Plots- Thanks to Wayne Jaynes for planting the two food plots on the east side with a mix of seeds. Looks like the deer fed heavily on these preventing them from being fully established.

We need someone to coordinate work days for the club to plant the food plots next year so that we share the effort. Hopefully Brent Weston will be the focal point for the west side and Wayne Jaynes for the east side plots?

New Business

Big Buck Contest – The club contest for the largest buck taken from the property has been restarted after many years of being idle. Rules for the contest were reviewed. Only lots who have purchased badges will be allowed to compete in the contest. Please take a photo of your buck and send to Todd and be sure to bring your rack for measuring at the spring meeting!! Les Bruno will be the official measurer of each rack. Contest winner will receive 2 free badges for the following year (lot owner receives badges if a guest or minor takes the biggest buck) as well as a plaque (given to the hunter).

Pavilion for the club – It was discussed the option of building a pavilion. Wayne Jaynes brought a concept of a 20'x25' structure (no floor) which would cost about \$3500 for materials (members to erect). Ron talked with Charlie Heath about a similar structure w/concrete floor and had a ballpark estimate of \$5000-\$6000 (built by Heath construction). A motion to build a pavilion was defeated at this time.

BHSC Social Get Together – Discussion took place about having a pot luck lunch or dinner to allow club members and their families to "meet and greet" one another. \$300 was approved for hall rental and some food costs. The date and location will be communicated later.

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Forest Management – The current Forest Management Plan (FMP) suggests tree harvest approximately every 3-4 yrs. This would target the next cutting in winter of 2017/2018. The existing FMP map was reviewed and the area in the North East quadrant of the property was recommended which is on the trail to gate #3. The area to be cut would be approximately 25 acres. Motion was made and approved to hire a forester to help identify/mark trees to be harvested and prepare logger bid documents. Plan would be to chip the tops, and have cutting done while the ground is frozen to minimize damage.

Officer Elections – One additional director position was added. A motion was made to approve the proposed ballot as written and unanimously approved.

President – Todd Rachel
Vice President – Steve Graves
Secretary – Rick Whisler
Treasurer – Ron Vasich
Director - Bob Grignon
Director - Brent Weston
Director - Randy Vasold
Director - Wayne Jaynes

Black Bears – Several sightings (lot #58) and trail cam photos of bears have been taken. Be aware that these are in the area.

Allowable number of stands per lot – Discussion took place on the number of tree stands and ground blinds allowed. Currently 2 tree stands and 2 ground blinds are allowed. Remember that all tree and ground blinds **MUST BE TAGGED WITH LOT NUMBER AND YEAR!!**

Meeting adjourned 8:14 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)