

Minutes of the September 28, 2013 BHSC Meeting

Upon arrival members were greeted by Jean Rachel and Debbie Blackburn, they checked members in and gave one ballot per registered lot member.

Meeting was called to order by President Todd Rachel at 7:03 PM. There were 35 lots represented and 55 persons present.

President Rachel introduced Jocelyn Mahone, District Forester of Gladwin/Clare County. Ms. Mahone gave a summary of the Birch Hills Sportsman's Club property; a wide variety of trees.

Ms. Mahone made mention of the emerald ash bore that has killed a large area of our ash trees; prevalent in the Oak hill area and in scattered areas on the west side of property and recommends cutting them down. Treating ash trees is not feasible and is costly. In addition, while evaluating the property, she went ahead and performed an Oak Wilt test on Oak trees on the west side of property; test results came back positive. She suggest to reassess next July, spraying with fungicide is slow and expensive. Do not trim Oak trees between April 15th-October 15th (or serious frost). A brochure was left for members to read. She recommends a forest management plan to be written and placed on our website so members can review it. A plan would give the club direction on land use to maintain a quality environment for attracting animals and habitats, and reducing threats, such as diseases. Thank you Jocelyn.

Regular BHSC business resumes. President Rachel has a few announcements: 1. Thank you to all officers and directors, I appreciate all of your help. 2. Badge sales-sold at spring/fall meeting and designated homes (Andrea Pratt #39, 40 and Linda Jones #61). Badge will come w/card with lock combination on. Records will be kept. 3. Birch Hills Sportsman's Club has a post office box, the president and treasurer each have a key. Address is: P.O. Box 994 Harrison MI 48625. 4. Randy Noe is not running for Vice President. Ron Vasich (lot # 6, 7) is the gate keeper, maintaining locks/combinations. 5. Gavel—to maintain order.

The minutes to the spring '13 and Special meetings were approved. Question as to why they were not sent out...on our website. Treasurer's report: the balance of the checking a/o 9/27/13 is \$2093.77; CD's \$14,614.66 with a maturity date of 5/3/2014. Interest rates are low, will look into other CD rate options for a better return on the money. Treasurer report was approved.

Old Business: Thank you to Les Bruno for the new gate number signs and mounting them. Lock combinations will change January 1, 2014, only members who have purchased a badge(s) will receive new combo. Badges are a means of ID, please wear. Trespasser/security is a concern, too many trails and entrances, try to limit un-gated access to the interior of the property. Lots #21, 50 and 87 are entry points of concern. Sheriff Wilson has been given a map with gate numbers. If calling for assistance identify which gate you are at. A trail cam has been stolen. Please secure your personal property. Ash tree update: every member received a letter or email regarding the situation. Sixty-three votes for proceeding with cut and two were opposed. Contract was signed with President Rachel giving a down payment check of \$3,400 to Andrea; balance due at time of cutting (January) \$13,600. Committee members include: Brent Weston #145,146, Steve Graves #117,118 and Ron Vasich # 6, 7, they will oversee cutting. In addition, the club voted to pay the consultant ranger's fee of \$538.65 and reserve the balance from the original motion of \$1100 for the cutting committee to use for follow up if needed. Brent will check for certificate of insurance with liability amount with logging company.

New Business: Thank you to Randy Noe and Don Williams for maintaining our food plots. Money from tree harvest can be used to upgrade the food plots and put back into the property. Much discussion on the west end food lot. A committee was formed to oversee the work; committee members include: Ray #39, 40, Randy #100, Steve #75, Rick #5, and Brain #140. A motion was proposed to set a limit of a \$1000. for the purpose of soil testing and liming the west side field. Motion passed. A second motion was proposed for a \$1000 for the purchase of fruit/nut trees with planting supplies and protective covering.

Motion passed- 15 yes - 2 opposed. Some members concerned whether we should wait for our Forest Management plan update before proceeding with trees. The last Forest Management Plan was completed May 1, 1991, by Weyerhaeuser Co. many members were unaware of this plan. President Rachel will send an email and attach this plan to members who have provided an address. A motion was proposed to discuss and develop a forest Management plan update of \$2000 by Darling Forester. Motion denied 6-for, 16-opposed. President Rachel will look into and apply for federal grant money to cover expenses. Many lot signs are in disrepair...property owners please restore. Everyone agreed, please do you own only unless agreed on by both lot owners. Oak Wilt—as stated in Ms. Mahone's report is present on our property. Do we ignore, let nature take it course or take steps to treat? Motion presented (Steve #54, 55) to add Oak Wilt in the forestry management plan based on coverage. Second Steve #75. Motion approved. The Building Review committee is made up of three members: Ron Vasich (#6, 7) chairperson, Bob Grignon (#58) and Todd Rachel (#15). If you are building anything over 200 sq.ft, it must go through the committee for approval. Budget- a issue arose over the cost of a test that was performed whether it was considered normal club expenses, normal club expenses is \$400 (as stated in minutes 9-3-05, thanks Les!) However, a motion was presented to allow all officers to work within budget for everyday business not to exceed \$400; club officers and director need to decide to spend or not. Motion approved. Motion to reimburse Todd Rachel \$20 for Oak Wilt Test approved. Election results- Todd Rachel #15 (President), Harry Leadbetter #A-3 (Vice President), Susan Madej #19, 20 (Secretary), Andrea Pratt #39, 40 (Treasurer). Directors: Fred Storage # 101, Bob Grignon # 58, Ron Vasich #6, 7. Thank you Debbie for all of your assistance. Member's expenses: President Rachel- \$147.61 for hall rental and office supplies, Madej- \$72.81 for postage and office supplies, Randy Noe- \$82.62 for fertilizer and ink. Motion to pay, approved. A second motion to pay Randy \$100 for reimbursement for expenses on his fuel and for Steve Blackburn for \$200 for badge supplies; both motions were approved. Meeting adjourned 9:20 PM.