

Birch Hills Sportsman Club Spring Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Whisler at 6:34 p.m. Members were asked to continue with the tradition of joining in with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members were able to pick up agendas, minutes from the Fall 2018 meeting, and club financials. A work day was held this morning which was focused on spreading sawdust around fruit/chestnut trees for mulch, rock/stick removal on new food plots, and trail maintenance to remove branches/trees. Special thanks to everyone that came out to help maintain our property and keep it cleaned up.

Fall 2018 minutes were read and accepted as written. Les Bruno recommended the minutes not be read in the future as everyone is send a copy a month in advance and has an opportunity to read the minutes themselves. Les Bruno moved to accept the minutes and Todd Rachel supported the approval of the Fall 2018 minutes with one correction under old business. Food plots listed as 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 should be 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3. Ron Vasich explained the club financials. The financials were accepted. It was moved by Les Bruno and supported by Woody Hurlkley. It was noted the date on page three should be 18 not 08.

New member, James Gibbs (Lot #47), Todd and Tracy Senyko (Lot #106), Jim Robinson (Lot #30) and Woody Hurlkley (Lot #34) were recognized and welcomed!

Old Business:

Work Day update- Fruit and Chestnut trees on both the east and west sides were mulched with free sawdust from a local Amish sawmill. Rocks and sticks were removed from food plots 1.1 and 1.3. Branches and trees were cleared for trail maintenance. It was a beautiful day to work and we are already looking forward to the next one.

Big Buck contest- We didn't have anyone in the audience that mentioned taking a buck so the offer was put out there to let others know if anyone did harvest a buck and purchased a badge, they can present it to us. The largest buck presented will get two free badges for 2019.

Document Receipt Update- Todd Rachel updated us on how many signatures he has had returned to him. He said he had approximately 2/3 or about 100 signatures. There are still about 50 out there. The purpose of these signatures is to allow the club to enforce the bylaws for the commons area. The bylaws have a lot of restrictions but without enough signatures we can't tie the bylaws to the deeds. Three legal opinions since 1991 recommend doing this. We have to have the signatures on a receipt to allow for this. We are truly trying to tie the rules for the commons area to the deeds so that when a lot is purchased, the new owner would receive both the protective covenants AND the by-laws at the time of closing. If new members that have recently purchased property do not have the bylaws or are not aware of them, they don't know what is acceptable and what isn't which also makes it difficult to enforce.

Food Plot Plans- The initial quote from Joel came in over \$5000.00 to do our food plots. Rick felt this was too expensive and requested club members to help keep the cost down. He gave Joel a counter proposal but Rick has not gotten a response back yet. The proposal is to till in layer ash to 1.1, 1.2, 1.2 2.1. 2.2 will be mowed by Rick a couple of times and then sprayed. 2.1 and 2.2 were frost seeded in 2018 with little improvement. This may be due to not mowing these plots which allowed grasses to overtake any clover. Joel will come back with a revised proposal for a late May or early June planting.

New Business

Lot line setbacks and update of zoning proposal- We had a guest speaker (Melanie Conway, Zoning Chair) from the zoning department for Hamilton Township. She explained the issue, what happened at the meeting, and answered some questions. The issue is the BHSC setbacks do not completely match the Hamilton Township setbacks. We are not requesting that ours change at all, but the Hamilton Township setbacks change to match ours to lessen confusion for property owners.

BHSC has a 25 ft. side setback but the townships is 15 ft.

BHSC has a front line setback of 50 and the township has a 40 ft. setback.

BHSC has a back line setback of 0 and the township has a 25 ft. back line setback.

Nothing will change on our side or front setbacks and this will give us an official 0 setback for the back.

The new R1A designation will only be used for sections 31 and 32 which is BHSC. The zoning officer WILL enforce these setbacks. This will be addressed at the next Hamilton Township Zoning meeting on May 14th. Those in attendance agreed this was a good plan. The motion was made by Les Bruno to accept these setbacks. Melanie will take this back to the township.

Proposal to post members names and lot numbers on BHSC Facebook Page- We have 61 members on Facebook. Todd Rachel said many members have come to him wanting to know owners lots numbers. Some in the group were not comfortable with this idea even though our FB page is a closed group. It was brought up that several years ago, the secretary would go to city hall and get an updated ownership list. The last one was done on May 21, 2011. If we can get an updated list, we did agree that we could bring the list to the meetings and possibly send in the mailings.

Discussion of 3 year director terms with rotation of 1 member per year Les Bruno stated we could stick with 4 and do a 1, 2, 3, and 4 year term if we had 4 directors (as is the current case). The state requires us to have a minimum of 3 directors, and our bylaws now state that the outgoing president goes on for 1 year. Our bylaws say 3 or more directors. Officers are only a 1 year term. Rick will bring a proposed director rotation for the fall meeting. If a director/officer has to leave their position mid-term, the president will appoint someone to fill the position until the next election.

Rick will add bylaw reading to the fall agenda so it can be considered the third reading to finalize them. Once finalized, they will be sent to the State as required.

Proposal to reduce hunting locations from 4 to 2- Currently we have 2 tree stands and 2 ground blinds per lot. Club rules state each lot can have two ground blinds and 2 tree stands. Much discussion took place over this. Bylaws are different from Covenants and also different from rules. A motion was made by Steve O-Day and supported by Matt Morrow to keep the current rule of 2 tree stands and 2 ground blinds per lot. Two members voted no on this. The rest voted yes.

Steve O'Day wanted to add a new business item, Deer Management. Steve feels our herd has shrunk. There was much discussion but it was tabled for now. It will be added to the fall 2019 agenda as an item for discussion and possible proposal. Another items for the fall 2019 agenda that came up out of the deer management discussion is our guest rule. We will discuss and have a possible proposal regarding guests.

The reminder was given about our annual pot luck. Saturday, June 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Hamilton Township Hall. Bring a dish to pass and your favorite beverage of choice. Ron Vasich and Bob Grignon will be coordinating the dinner.

Thank you to everyone that came out to attend our annual spring meeting!

Kristi Teall, Secretary

Birch Hills Sportsman Club website: www.birchhsc.com

May 2019

Also find us on Facebook

If anyone has updated addresses, emails, or phone numbers, please email Kristi Teall at kristiteall@gmail.com or call at 989-388-8212.