

## Minutes of the May 14, 2016 Birch Hills Sportsman Club Spring Meeting

Members were greeted and were asked to confirm/update addresses and emails. Members were also able to pick up an agenda, club financials and meeting minutes from the fall 2015 meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel at 6:30 PM. Note: New time for meeting to allow more travel time for those returning to down state. 21 members were present representing 21 lots.

Todd spoke with the Cullen family recently who had a scrapbook about the club. This was shared during the meeting and will remain under the care of the club president but anyone who wishes to browse it may do so by contacting Todd.

Todd reminded that all lot owners should update their lot numbers if they are not visible. Also, trash and lot debris has been found dumped in the commons area. Please place any brush/trees/leaves near the rear of your lot line, but stay clear of all neighboring trails.

Rick requested that everyone please update their email addresses if you have one. Using email significantly reduces the clubs costs by not having to do letter mailings. Fall 2015 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Ron Vasich (lot 6/7) presented several documents outlining the clubs financial status. Ron is going to maintain a balance in the checking account to prevent paying a \$12 monthly service fee. A total of \$1056 in badge sales were completed and we are on budget for badge sales. Note: badges can be purchased from Ron Vasich (lot 6/7) or Todd Rachel (Lot 15) or through the mail by contacting Todd via email. Most are sold during the club meetings as well. Ron indicated that the IRS filing fee (\$420) was not included in the budget but was required to complete the non-profit status for the club. Currently we are under budget since we have not purchased seed and fertilizer for food plots. \$900 was spent to purchase the apple trees/stakes/fencing and \$950 was budgeted. Current accounts are: Checking \$5,472 Savings \$18,000 CD's \$11,581 and \$3,458 for a total of \$39,085 as of 5/14/16. Financials were unanimously approved as stated.

### Old Business

**West Side Fruit Tree's-** 19 apple trees were planted on the west side. These were spread out in the large food plot, several by the large oak where the clear cut was done and also many throughout the trail that goes to the east from the sand pit. All trees were fenced to prevent deer damage and watering buckets installed. All this was accomplished in about 2 hours! Thanks again to the 15 people who came out to help plant these!! Special thanks to Randy Vasold, Ron Vasich and Rick Whisler for coordinating this effort!

**Chestnut Trees-** 24 trees planted in 2014 are still alive but show limited growth. Our cooler temperatures in this region may limit growth but we hope to see most trees reach out of the protective grow tubes this year.

**West Food Plots-** Two new food plots were established where logging had been done are ready for prep and planting. Brent Weston agreed to work and plant the west plots now that Randy Noe has moved away.

**Tree Watering-** All the trees need watering to ensure they get established. Randy Noe donated a 250 gal tote and we will look to purchase a trailer which can run on the trails. A motion was made and approved to purchase a trailer not to exceed \$600. Ron Vasich will look into trailer options. Todd will research the trailer licensing needs in order for us to drive on M-61 between our two gates.

**No Trespassing Signs-** Ron Vasich has additional signs if anyone is interested in posting one on their property. Posts are also available if needed to display signs.

**Burned-Out Cabin Lot #50-** The path to this lot was blocked with a chain and several no trespassing signs installed. Permission to do this was provided by the lot owner. Looks like the unauthorized access to the commons area has been curtailed for now.

### New Business

**Big Buck Contest** – Discussed the possibility of having a club contest for the largest buck taken from the property. Rules for the contest will be developed prior to the fall meeting. Only lots who have purchased badges would be allowed to compete in the contest. Todd will work with members to get a draft proposal developed.

**Forest Management Plan (FMP)** – Discussion took place on the existing FMP about when the next lumber harvest could take place. Tentative harvest (suggested every 3 yrs) could take place during the winter of 2017/2018. Concern was voiced that the east side still has a lot of larger trees that were not chipped. West side was “cleaned up” somewhat better. Need to also hold loggers to a firm date on when they can start/stop logging to prevent damage to the trails.

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**BHSC Website** – GoDaddy who supports our website will no longer offer the software we have been using. Todd indicated that the site needs to be rebuilt and was willing to do it. Unanimous agreement to rebuilding the site with up to date software. Renewal with GoDaddy will have to be done in 2017.

**Club Lot or Pavilion** – Discussion took place about the club purchasing a lot or possibly building a pavilion in the commons area. Pavilion could be used for club gatherings, posting of a map with blind locations, grill/tables, etc.

**Black Bears** – Several sightings and trail cam photos of bears have been taken. Be aware that these are in the area.

**East Side Food Plots** – Todd offered to research if there is a local person who plants food plots. Typical cost is about \$500 per acre. The club voted not to hire outside help, but to depend on member volunteers to do the work. If no members volunteer, the plots will sit idle.

**Meeting adjourned 8:09 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 not shared outside the board of directors unless permission is provided by the lot owner.

If you have a new or updated email, please send a note to me at [rwhisler@trinseo.com](mailto:rwhisler@trinseo.com) so that we can send our meeting communications electronically. Thank you, Rick Whisler, Secretary (Lot #5)