

## BLSG Board Meeting Minutes 3-21-19

Present: Stephen Belcher, Michael Blaisdell, Art Doty, Rick Enser, Brad Lawes, Will Mathis, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Schumann (new alternate for Salisbury), Kerry White, Jeff Whiting, Paul Vaczy.

Guests: Al Gionet (Goshen), John Goodwin (Leicester), Russell Jones (Brandon Reporter), Jay Michael (Lake Association)

Jeff Whiting called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. Motion to change the order of the agenda as follows: Move agenda item number 13 to between 10 & 11. (Moved by A.Doty 2<sup>nd</sup> by M.Blaisdell) Approved.
2. Introduction of guests. The Salisbury Select Board appointed Jeff Schumann as the alternate for Salisbury.
3. Minutes from 2/21/19 approved (Moved by W.Rausenberger 2<sup>nd</sup> by M.Blaisdell).
4. Citizens Concerns. None were raised by the guests present. Al Gionet arrived later and had budget questions. J. Whiting told him they would be addressed during the Treasurer's Report.
5. Town meeting results and feedback. During the Goshen town meeting there was some discussion of legal fees and a few people had questions about the adulticide program. The overall Town budget passed with a large majority in Goshen.

In Pittsford there was not discussion about the lawsuit at the meeting. Last year was the first year the town received regular adulticide treatment and the general sentiment from the public was that it was a success and they are happy about the treatment. There was one question about getting advance notice. The individual was advised that spray routes are posted on the BLSG website by 2:00pm on the day a roadside treatment is planned. Some people cannot access the internet. Discussion about the automated calls/emails that the school system uses. The technology is available, BLSG would need to determine if there are management challenges to the technology and if there are resources for a staff person to manage bounced back emails etc. Suggestion made to reincorporate the spray route information into the Hot Line phone message for individuals who do not have access to the internet. W. Mathis will do this season.

Leicester Town meeting discussion, one resident moved to take the legal fees out of the budget. The motion failed for Leicester to not pay its portion of the legal fees 43-6.

- a. Salisbury Town Meeting, the Salisbury Select Board decided to separate the legal fees from the BLSG budget and vote them separately. There was a lot of discussion at the town meeting about the BLSG. The final vote to allocate legal fees to BLSG was 98-83. Salisbury representatives believe that the biggest concern for Salisbury residents is adulticide spraying and the products that are being used. There is overwhelming support for the larvicide program. Peter Conlin and Ruth Hardy are working with appropriations to try to secure additional

funding for the larvicide program for the BLSG. Peter Conlin attended the Goshen Town Meeting and he reported that he and Butch Shaw are planning to approach appropriations to increase funding for the District. The latter are advocating an additional \$140,000 in addition to the \$70,000 that is currently offered. Al Gionet did not feel like he received answers to his questions at the Town Meeting in Goshen. J. Whiting responded that Ben Lawton had responded to questions about the overall BLSG budget and did not break down Goshen's share of that budget. The overall BLSG budget was printed under Officer's Reports and only Goshen's share of the overall budget showed up as a line item in the Budget presented by the Select Board and approved.

P. Vaczy said that outreach, education and transparency are what most people in the town of Salisbury are concerned about and he believes use of outreach and education would alleviate most of the problems that have arisen. P. Vaczy said that this is only his third meeting and he wants to learn all that he can about the organization so that he can understand the issues clearly. A. Doty offered to meet with him to talk to him about the history of the organization. W. Mathis offered to take P. Vaczy out for the day with him to show him the operations part of the organization.

J. Whiting said that at one time all people on the board were certified applicators and he encourages all board members to get certified even if they never spray, It is helpful to know and understand the process. At this time, only J. Whiting, B. Lawes. and B. Lawton are certified on the Board along with Dave Bishop (Goshen Alternate). Art Doty has let his license lapse since he no longer applies.

J. Michael suggested that the District get in front of the publicity situation. He can read about products and labels and not be able to make a judgement about it without additional education that the BLSG could be providing the public. He is not sure how the BLSG makes the decision to spray or not, why certain products are used versus others. Many of the publicity problems could be resolved if the community understood these questions. J. Michael offered to build a campaign with himself, J. Goodwin and J. Schulmann as a committee for Public Relations, Jay would like the board to consider this offer. J. Goodwin lives in Leicester but went to the Salisbury Town Meeting and he wants to work together with the BLSG and residents. Residents do not know mosquito control. Leicester appeared to trust the BLSG, the Salisbury town meeting residents did not seem to trust the BLSG. P. Vaczy said that Brad spoke well to the Leicester residents and seemed to quell any concerns. B. Lawton's presentation provided a lot of information and it may not have directly answered the questions that residents had. P. Vaczy believes that education and transparency is key. J. Whiting said that prior to this situation we were not getting questions and people rarely came to meetings. A. Doty wanted to make note that the BLSG is a highly regulated organization. Technicians are licensed and are required to follow labels on treatment products from the top to the bottom, the State gives instructions and the rules are very clear, Jay believes this should be part of the information campaign. J. Whiting mentioned that there were periods of time when Salisbury did not have representation on the board. Discussion about whether town

representatives should periodically attend Select Board meetings and provide feed back to the Select Board members.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- a. General Checking balance is \$52,794.55.
- b. Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement Checking has a balance of \$4,975.62.
- c. Total available funds are \$57,770.17.
- d. There is a question from Pittsford inquiring about an audit. The cost of an audit will be investigated. It is not budgeted this year
- e. Al Gionet did not feel like he understood the answers to the budget questions that he asked at the Town Meeting in Goshen. J. Whiting responded that Ben Lawton had responded to questions about the overall BLSG budget and did not break down Goshen's share of that budget. The overall BLSG budget was printed under Officer's Reports and only Goshen's share of the overall budget showed up as a line item in the Budget presented by the Select Board and approved. That explanation satisfied his questions.
- f. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Moved by S.Belcher 2<sup>nd</sup> by M.Blaisdell) Approved.

7. Operations:

- a. Shop will open in two weeks.
- b. The public notices on both Adulticiding and Larviciding went out this week to the Addison Independent and the Reporter. Will left message with 92.1 FM for a Public Service Announcement.
- c. We should be looking for a new truck, One truck will probably not pass inspection due to rust next year. The six wheeler needs repair, Will believes it is an electrical issue.
- d. We have enough Larvicide in inventory to treat 2200 acres. This is enough for treatment using the ARGO and backpack applications. We will most likely require more funds from the State before the new grant is available July 1. To date efforts to obtain funding have not been successful.

8. Pesticide General Permit Update:

- a. BLSG filed for summary judgement. We submitted supplemental information as an Addendum to our original Notice of Intent expanding on how we operate. The State feels the original submission was adequate but will take additional information. There are no changes to how we operate. The District is waiting for a decision from the Judge in the case. Copies were distributed electronically to the Board before the meeting.

9. New Business:

- a. B. Lawes has new tracking devices in his company vehicles. He gave an update on the devices and suggested that the District may want to invest in these. The devices are \$50/ea. and they cost \$25/mo. to use them, M. Blaisdell mentioned the mosquito and vector control software that is offered through Frontier Precision, this technology tracks when the sprayer is on/off and gives automated alerts to residents. It is more expensive. B. Lawes believes the device he presented would be helpful to Will for managing his staff to know where they are. B. Lawes, M.

Blaisdell and A. Doty were appointed as a committee to investigate and report back.

- b. Secretary Position. Kerry has accepted a job offer at another organization. The position will conflict with the Thursday Board Meetings. Kerry still intends to work seasonally for the BLSG in the capacity of Laboratory/Field Technician and Public Relations Coordinator. If a secretary is not found before the April Meeting, she can likely attend. The Board will seek a new secretary for the position.
  - c. Discussion about the recent posting on front porch forum alleging that the BLSG killed a resident's bees. The District has the report from the Vermont Department of Agriculture who investigated the incident from July 2018. The report analysis found that there was no permethrin detected in the honey comb that was extracted from the hives. The investigation did not substantiate the allegation and suggested other causes. Discussion about the results and how to read the report. Consideration will be given to posting on the web site and possibly Front Page Forum.
10. Motion to enter executive session under open meeting law at 8:21PM to discuss the ongoing legal issues with TAC (Motion by A. Doty 2<sup>nd</sup> by B. Lawes) Approved unanimously.
  11. The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:15 PM. No actions were taken.
  12. There was discussion of the Supplemental Information submitted on the NOI. Jeff and Will answered questions.
  13. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.