

BLSG Insect Control District Board Meeting  
7 November 2019  
Unapproved Minutes

Present: Jeff Whiting, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Smith, Jeff Schumann, Paul Vaczy, Mike Blaisdell, Steve Belcher

Guests: Jay Michael, Kerry White, Will Mathis, John Capen, Richard Russ

In the absence of Ben Lawton, Jeff Whiting took the chair.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. No citizen concerns were advanced.
2. On a motion by Mike Blaisdell, seconded by Wayne Rausenberger, the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2019, were approved.

3. Treasurer Wayne Rausenberger presented his report. As of November 7, BLSG funds counted:

General Checking	\$53,531.77
Equipment/Capital fund	\$23,228.98
Total:	\$76,760.75

All invoices to the state have been paid.

A question was raised on the timing of the Salisbury payment, that will come later in this month. On a motion by Steve Belcher, seconded by Mike Blaisdell, the Treasurer s Report was approved.

4. Election of Officers

In the absence of a nominating committee, nominations were made in the session.

Mike Blaisdell was elected the Chair of the Board.

Jeff Whiting agreed to serve as Vice-chair until another candidate came forth, and was elected.

Wayne Rausenberger agreed to continue as Treasurer, and was elected.

Steve Belcher presented himself for Secretary and was elected.

5. Northeast Mosquito Control Meeting

This meeting will take place in Milford, MA, Dec. 9-11. Mike Blaisdell, chair-elect, expressed interest in attending, and will later settle with Will Mathis and Kerry White on who else may go.

6. District Coordinator s Year-end Report

Will Mathis had distributed his report by email earlier. Wayne Rausenberger relayed a suggestion from Brad Lawes that the report on the volume of larvicide and pesticide applied should also state the volume of the active ingredient that is a very small percentage of the actual weight of the product. The report of the weight is required by the State. The report was approved with the proposed amendment on a motion by Jeff Smith, seconded by Mike Blaisdell.

## 7. Proposed Full-time Coordinator Position

It was recognized that the position cannot practically be advertised before the towns have voted approval of their funding. It was also acknowledged that the job-description needed to be finalized before the BLSG funding requests went to the Select Boards.

## 8. Drones and Public Relations

Jay Michael noted that no progress had been made towards the demonstration of drone capabilities; the issue of state regulation remains a concern. A Lemonfair District Board member will be visiting Pocatello, ID, and will try to observe their use of drones in the near future.

On PR, Jay offered a cost estimate for a mailing to the citizens of the towns in the District; there was discussion of timing and content.

## 9. Vehicle Requirements

Will Mathis and Wayne Rausenberger had earlier been authorized to look for two replacement trucks, for a total price of \$15,000. They reported that it would be impossible to find adequate vehicles, suiting the District's needs, in that price range.

This led to a discussion of the necessary specifications, as to size, power, and storage capacity. The vehicles need to be powerful enough to carry or tow equipment around Lake Dunmore and elsewhere. A question was raised on the needed number of vehicles. The need and opportunity for spraying is highly variable, but five vehicles seems the minimum. The current inventory offers the equivalent of two and a half trucks.

Members were invited to spread the word about the District's need. John Capen mentioned one possibility.

## 10. 2020 Budget Finalization

Following Wayne Rausenberger's explanation of a one penny item under Revenue, Jeff Whiting noted that the State is becoming much more stringent in requiring accounting down to the penny. Wayne presented a revised version of the budget, incorporating the adjustments suggested in the October meeting. Jeff Schumann wondered if the budgeted labor costs were adequate; it was noted that some of the funds for the new full-time position would come out of the State grant.

There was some discussion of the proposal, advanced in previous meetings, that the District should request payment when individuals requested treatment outside the regularly scheduled routes and timings. The issues involved the legal basis, the modalities, the amount of the charge (labor and materials were recognized), whether to make it a charge or a requested donation.

On a motion from Steve Belcher, seconded by Paul Vaczy, the budget was approved.

## 11. New Business

The board authorized Jeff Whiting, Mike Blaisdell, and Steve Belcher to draft a letter to accompany the assessment requests for the towns. On a motion by Paul Vaczy, seconded by Jeff Smith, this motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.