

BLSG Board Meeting
October 8, 2020
Approved Minutes

Present:

BLSG Board Members: Paul Vaczy, Brad Lawes, Jeff Whiting, Mike Blaisdell, Richard Russ, Steve Belcher.

BLSG Staff: Will Mathis (on Zoom)

Guests: Wayne Rausenberger

The BLSG Board met for a special meeting, continuing actions from the previous meeting on Sept. 17, terminated by the Zoom time limits. The Board met in the upstairs room of the Salisbury Library, with Zoom contact.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01, and introductions were made. Brad Lawes distributed revised versions of the proposed budget that had been emailed to members earlier in the day. Before the agenda (a review of the proposed budget) was addressed, other questions arose.

There was a question on the amount paid or due on Brandon's contribution. Wayne Rausenberger noted that the confusion arose from the difference in the budgeting calendars of the towns (a fiscal year) and the BLSG (the calendar year); Brandon's payments in early 2020 therefore do not count towards the 2021 budget.

Brad Lawes noted that expenses this year had been low, largely because of the low rainfall.

The Board then reviewed the proposed budget, discussing possible adjustments and considering possibilities. On the line-item for legal expenses, it was noted that in 2021 the Board will have to start preparations for a new application for a Pesticide General Permit (to be renewed in 2022), and can almost certainly expect challenges, as well as the need for legal review of the application. Jeff Whiting noted that the regulatory conditions may well change in this time; the Federal government may change the requirements that the State must follow.

On the Larviciding grant, an inconsistency was noted in one of the amendments, where in one paragraph the State permits and then prohibits carry-over of funds. It remains unclear whether funds may be carried over from one quarter to the next (as the State first issued a quarterly budget, that may now have been finalized for the whole year). Mike Blaisdell reported that Patti Casey did promise the funding would be level, but there is nothing in writing.

On the question of a possible replacement for Eloise Crane, there may be less urgency. We await developments.

Paul Vaczy then raised questions received from constituents:

Would there be a refund to towns, given a lack of activity. Answer: No, the board will make reserves against future need.

What about private requests for spraying? Are these to be charged? This is an ongoing issue. In many cases, a request for spraying can be included in a regularly scheduled spray-route, and so a charge would seem unneeded. When towns request spraying for municipal events, a charge is inappropriate. Only when the spraying requires a specially-scheduled trip does a fee seem required.

On a motion by Steve Belcher, seconded by Richard Russ, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on October 15, at 7:00 pm. The physical location will again be the upper story of the Salisbury Library, with Zoom contacts to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Belcher