

## BLSG Board Meeting of Feb. 18, 2021 Unapproved Minutes

Board Members Present, by Zoom: Brad Lawes, Ben Lawton, Jeff Schumann, Mike Blaisdell, Paul Vaczy, Doug Perkins, Jeff Whiting, Steve Belcher, Richard Russ, Wayne Rausenberger

BLSG: Will Mathis, Jay Michael.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm and the attendance was noted. There were no guests.

There was little to report on Covid precautions. There has been no contact among the staff.

There were no public comments.

The Minutes of the BLSG Board Meeting of Jan. 21, 2021, were approved on a motion by Mike Blaisdell, seconded by Jeff Schumann.

On State Business:

Mike Blaisdell reported an email from Patti Casey, received that day, noting that the BLSG Larviciding Permit will expire this year and needs to be renewed. She forwarded the paperwork.

Much time was spent discussing another email from Patti Casey relating to a Salisbury Front Porch Forum post, its implications, and the appropriate BLSG response. The FPF post quoted the Minutes of a BLSG Special Board Meeting on June 6, 2018, but did so selectively and thus misrepresented the original statement. Steve Belcher reported that he had sent the relevant minutes, prepared by Kerry White, to Patti Casey, and later to the Executive Board. He read out the full sentence from the original text, "This means NO larvicide program in 2019 until the possible 2019-2020 Grant that would begin on July 1, 2019". The FPF quote omitted the rest of the sentence after 2019.

Jeff Schumann noted a recent article in the *Spotted Salamander* as evidence of a movement to get Salisbury to withdraw from the BLSG. Another point raised was that there was only one application of adulticide in Salisbury in the past year, so their assessment seemed excessive, to which one answer was that the Fire Department budget does not depend on the number of fires in the past year.

Wayne Rausenberger noted a continuing misunderstanding, in the public, of the operations of the BLSG and the State standards that the BLSG must observe in its activities. Paul Vaczy noted a strong political division in Salisbury.

Jay Michael reported that a mailing would go out next week, and suggested a supplementary statement aimed at Salisbury, such as the one sent by Jeff Schumann in 2020. It was noted that the 2020 statement did not address finances, but that this issue has now come up. There was description of the weather conditions of 2020 (not ideal for mosquitoes).

The question was raised: what would Salisbury do should they withdraw? Paul Vaczy noted that part of the discussion involved people using private companies to spray. Mike Blaisdell noted that while promises are made about eco-friendly measures, the ultimate resort is the spraying of adulticides. Ben Lawton noted that in NH, the cost of spraying came to \$500 for a half-acre.

Brad Lawes noted that the cost per inhabitant in Salisbury of the BLSG treatment was

\$23 per person. A commercial pesticide operation charges in the range of \$75/month.

Steve Belcher raised a question about the costs of trapping and sampling, that are ongoing whether or not treatment follows, and learned that those costs are covered by the State grant. Ben Lawton reminded members of his experience when his wife was infected with WNV, and noted that in Texas, following an outbreak, they had estimate the medical costs at close to \$1 million for treatment and rehabilitation.

There followed a question about the effects of treatment from one year to the next; it was resolved by Will Mathis, pulling up his spreadsheets: the defining variables are the acreage flooded in the spring, along with temperature and timing, and not the extent of treatment.

Mike Blaisdell made a motion, seconded by Brad Lawes, that Jeff Schumann should send out a mailing to residents of Salisbury, along the lines of last year's mailing and addressing current concerns, and that Mike Blaisdell would send statements to the *Addison Independent* and the *Brandon-Pittsford Reporter*. The motion was carried.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Brad Lawes reported the following sums in the BLSG Accounts:

General Fund	\$157,507.45
Equipment	\$ 18,128.79
Legal	\$ 5,000.00
Total:	\$180,036.24

There have been communication snafus in setting up an audit, and so there is no cost estimate at the moment. Work would not start until after tax season in any case.

On a motion by Jeff Whiting, seconded by Paul Vaczy, the Treasurer's report was approved.

#### Operations Report

Will Mathis had earlier noted that the only activity was renewals for vehicles. On planned improvements to the shed, he noted that he had contacted two contractors, neither apparently interested in the project. Wayne Rausenberger had also made inquiries, without positive response.

On the insulation project, Will noted that he had contacted Home Depot, and that for the volume of insulation material required he could get free use of the machine to insufflate the insulation. The project could thus be done in-house. There would be other costs, such as sheetrock and patching. Queried about insurance coverage, Will answered that no extra insurance coverage was needed. Will reported cost-estimates for a heat-exchanger (\$9,000) vs. a propane heater in the upstairs area, and his ideas met approval. Estimates will follow.

On the Licence Renewals, Will noted that he had emailed Patti Casey 8 months ago about the issue. He will resend the emails as a reminder.

PR issues were covered in the discussion of State matters. There was a tally of members planning to participate in the Town meetings. There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned; the next scheduled meeting should be March 18.

Respectfully submitted,  
stephen belcher