

BLSG Board Meeting
20 May 2021
Unapproved Minutes

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

BLSG-connections: Will Mathis, Jay Michael, Bruce Baccei, Tom Hogan

Public: Keith Whitcomb, Lee Kahrs, Barb Karle, Chris Fastie

Locations: Stephen Douglas House, Leicester Town Hall, Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Participans were identified. Mike Blaisdell noted that Covid precautions were being lifted. In public comments, Keith Whitcomb requested that speakers identify themselves.

There was then a delay due to communications difficulties, during which time Mike Blaisdell and Jeff Whiting joined the other Board members in Leicester.

The Minutes of the April 15th Meeting were approved.

On Salisbury, Paul Vaczy reported that the town has retained a lawyer; the town will not fund the BLSG, and the town understands that service may be discontinued. He later clarified that the town has no plans to hold a vote on withdrawing. Doug Perkins offered a motion that the BLSG attorney should meet with the Salisbury attorney in an effort to seek common ground, and that they should report back at the earliest possible date. This motion was approved, as was an amendment that the Board should not vote on service to Salisbury until the lawyers have met and reported.

State Update:

Mike Blaisdell reported that the larviciding permit had been signed and delivered. He also said the grand had been renewed for the next fiscal year, and had been signed. Wayne Rausenberger wondered if the grant had been shared with the board, and requested that it be sent out.

By-Laws Committee

Doug Perkins, as Chair of the Committee, reported to the Board. He began with a motion that changes to the By-Laws be postponed until the situation with Salisbury had been resolved; the motion was approved. He offered a second motion that there be no changes to the Agreement that established the BLSG until the situation with Salisbury had been resolved, and this motion also was approved.

He then described the proposed changes to the By-laws, section by section. Changes were proposed with the goal of aligning the By-Laws with the Agreement and with Vermont State Law, and filling in some gaps. A procedure has been proposed for withdrawal from the BLSG. Section 2, on governance, has been rearranged; terminology has been added to avoid confusion

(‘member’ referred both to town and to Board members). There was a question of the terms of Board members; the Agreement had specified a 3-year term. This matter will be left up to the towns. For Section 5, there was discussion of the manner in which the Secretary should keep the records (the By-Laws prescribe a journal). In Section 6 there is a provision for requesting a Select Board to replace or remove a representative.

Article Three, on an ‘Executive Committee’, caused some discussion of limits to be set on its activities and whether there might be a need for such a Committee. Article IV addressed warning meetings and the agenda; regular meetings and the Annual Meeting, the question of a quorum.

Article V, Finances, led to discussion of the procedures for notifying towns of their assessments and determining when payment is due.

Following his review of the proposed changes, Doug Perkins offered a motion to postpone approval of the revised By-laws until after resolution of the Salisbury situation. The motion was approved. Jeff Schumann offered thanks to Doug for his diligent work on the project, and agreed that it was prudent to hold off decisions.

Treasurer’s Report

Brad Lawes had sent out a statement by email:

General Checking	\$138,356.47
Equipment/Capital	\$ 17,473.89
Legal Fund	\$ 9,990.18
Debit Card	\$ 536.84
Total Funds Available:	\$166,347.38

Wayne Rausenberger then raised the question of the account classification. The Legal Fund, for instance, reflects a \$10 fee against 18 cents in interest. He wished to change the category of various accounts from ‘Business Interest’ to ‘Relationship Account’ that would not be subject to the fees and would have lower minimum balances.

He offered a motion to change the ‘Equipment Replacement and Capital Improvement’ account from ‘Business Interest’ to ‘Relationship Account’. The motion was approved.

He then offered a motion to change the ‘Legal Fund’ account from ‘Business Interest’ to ‘Relationship Account.’ That motion was also approved.

He then moved to raise the limit on the Debit Card account from \$500 to \$3000. There was discussion on procedures and precautions; the question was called and the motion was approved

Operations Report

Will Mathis reported that larviciding was having results, although in one case they had to redo to application with a different product. Work on the building is proceeding, and now has entered the second phase of a three-part operation. He had received bids for the flooring of the upstairs section and for the counters to be installed. The final phase would involve a water-supply (well, bathroom). He was advised to consult Butch Shaw for access to unspent grant funds from the year.

Wayne Rausenberger offered a motion to approve the floor contract, in the sum of \$6782; it was suggested that this work should be deferred until the insulation and paint work are

complete. The motion was approved.

On the question of the cabinets, various members asked about the overall plan. Will's answer was that the building needed a laboratory facility for the sampling and identification work, and put the project in the context of a ten-year plan. Not enough members knew about such a plan, and wished to be informed of the details. Further action was postponed to the next meeting.

New Business

Mike Blaisdell announced that he did not plan to run for Chair again, and that Jeff Whiting wished to step down from the position of Vice-Chair. He suggested the need for a nominating committee.

The meeting was then adjourned around 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

stephen belcher