

BLSG Board of Trustees Emergency Meeting
July 21, 2021
Stephen Douglas House, Brandon, VT
Draft Minutes

Representatives present: Mike Blaisdell (Chair / Pittsford), Brad Lawes (Treasurer / Leicester), Doug Perkins (Leicester), Wayne Rausenberger (Brandon), Richard Russ (Brandon)

Representatives attending via electronic means: Jeff Whiting (Vice Chair / Goshen), Ben Lawton (Goshen), Jeff Schumann (Salisbury), Paul Vaczy (Salisbury)

Others: Will Mathis (Executive Director), Bruce Baccei (Proctor), Jay Michael

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 pm.

As Steve Belcher (Secretary / Pittsford) was absent from the meeting, Doug Perkins was volunteered to act as Secretary for this meeting.

There were no public comments.

Mike Blaisdell reviewed an email received from Patti Casey that summarized the telephonic meeting held on Tuesday, 20 July, between Cary Giguere, Jeff Whiting, Paul Vaczy, Jeff Schumann, and herself. After discussion, Ben Lawton moved that the BLSG rescind the resolution approved on June 24, 2021 that suspended insect control services in Salisbury while payment negotiations were ongoing. During the ensuing debate, Paul Vaczy, speaking as Chair of the Salisbury Select Board, stated that, even though no money has been approved to pay for services, he intends that any services provided to Salisbury by the BLSG will be paid for. Paul also made clear that only larvicide control efforts were desired in Salisbury, as that form of treatment is much less contentious than adulticiding. The motion to rescind the previous resolution that suspended insect control services in Salisbury was approved by more than the required 2/3 affirmative vote.

Ben Lawton introduced a second resolution to provide larvicide services to the Town of Salisbury with the expectation that the BLSG will be compensated for the fixed expenses related to larvicide treatment that are not covered by the State grant. Doug Perkins pointed out that he believed the new motion was redundant to the motion just passed. After debate, the motion was approved unanimously.

Will Mathis reported that the helicopter larvicide treatment that he had scheduled for July 22 had been canceled and that he had not done any larva surveillance / sampling in Salisbury. Larva sampling has to be done, and meet State thresholds, before an aerial larvicide application can be rescheduled. Will's opinion is that this delay will mean missing the window for effective larvicide application.

Wayne Rausenberger moved that Will Mathis' hourly rate of compensation be increased from \$32.00 / hour to \$40.00 / hour to parallel what the Board approved for subordinate employees

during the July 15 Regular Meeting. The motion was approved with four affirmative votes, one negative vote, and the other representatives abstaining.

Doug Perkins recommended that a subcommittee composed of Jeff Schumann, Wayne Rausenberger, and himself research BLSG records to identify larvicide expenses that presently are not included in the District's annual budget because of the expectation that those costs will be reimbursed by the State grant. Once that research is complete, a committee composed of Jeff Whiting (Chair), Mike Blaisdell, Will Mathis, Doug Perkins, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Schumann, and Paul Vaczy will meet to refine both the BLSG 2021 – 2022 Budget and the allocation of expenses within that budget between the adulticide and larvicide programs. Because that committee will constitute a quorum of the BLSG Board of Trustees, all meetings thereof will have to be properly warned in accordance with the Vermont Open Meetings Law. There was consensus within the Board to proceed as recommended.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Perkins
Acting Secretary