

BLSG Board Meeting  
19 August 2021  
Unapproved Minutes

Present: Wayne Rausenberger, Richard Russ, Brad Lawes, Steve Belcher, Mike Blaisdell;  
connected by Zoom: Doug Perkins, Paul Vaczy, Chad Beckwith

BLSG: Will Mathis, Tom Hogan (Proctor)

Guests: Keith Whitcomb, John Vaaler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 and participants were identified. There were no public comments

Brad Lawes requested that the question of a well or water-connection for the shed be considered; it was consigned to 'new business.'

The Minutes of the July 15 meeting were amended to include the figures in the Treasurer's report, absent from the earlier version. The Amended Minutes of the July 15 meeting were approved. The Minutes of the emergency meeting of July 21 were approved.

The Treasurer offered his report, having emailed documents earlier. On funds:

General checking:	\$113,042.03
Equipment/Capital	\$35,224.04
Legal Fund	\$7,720.26
Debit Card	\$1,541.07
Funds available:	\$157,527.40

He noted that we have just received a new bill from the lawyer. Outstanding invoices from the State total \$37,904.39, two of which date to the end of the last fiscal year. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Will Mathis had emailed an operations report, of which he offered a summary: the weather conditions have been entirely on the side of the mosquitoes, with frequent rains that also prevent spraying. Another aerial application of the larvicide may be required, and might have to draw on a \$25,000 fund the State holds in escrow. Availability of the products required for treatment is another issue, and it may be necessary to go over budget to acquire the necessary supplies; approval of this measure was deferred to the next meeting, at which time the situation will be clearer.

On Salisbury

Paul Vaczy had questions about the larviciding. A planned aerial application had been cancelled. In answer to a further question from Paul, Will Mathis called up his data base and began listing the dates and locations of samplings in Salisbury (this information is available on the BLSG website). Paul Vaczy expressed concern about the suggestion of animosity towards Salisbury. It was noted that the recent samplings would have justified adulticide treatment in Salisbury. Will Mathis inquired about contacts with a land-owner whose property covers a large swamp area, but

who has refused larvicide treatments.

#### By-Laws Committee

Doug Perkins noted that we await feedback from some towns, and that he had discovered two oversights in the rewriting of the by-laws:

1. The condition that towns entering the District are liable to a buy-in contribution
2. The clarification that the Chair of the Board is responsible for communications with the public.

The changes were approved.

On revisions to the Agreement, the Committee still awaits town comments before bringing a revised version to the Board for approval and then submission to the Towns.

Under Public Relations, it was noted that the BLSG will have a presence at the LDFLA gathering and at Pittsford Day.

#### Other Business:

Brad Lawes noted that the BLSG shed needs running water, especially as operations are becoming full-time. Options are to try to tap into the Brandon town line, that ends just beyond Lawes Ag, but could be extended to the BLSG shed, or a well. Brad will look into the options.

#### New Business:

Wayne Rausenberger offered four items:

1. The question of Leslie Wright's complaint (not resolved).
2. The question of the cooperation between the Lemonfair District and Middlebury College, using a drone: was this paid for with State grant funds? The State has refused to allow the BLSG to use drones.
3. A proposal to add \$3,500 to the Workmen's Compensation Fund in light of current expenses. The proposal was approved.
4. The question of next year's budget:

This question led to an extended discussion. At first, it involved the possibilities of 4-town and 5-town budgets, and reconsideration of the formula for computing the town assessments.

Uncertainty on Salisbury complicates the question. Paul Vaczy noted that a further vote by Salisbury citizens is required, and repeated his claim of animosity to Salisbury. He also denied the claim that Salisbury had 'gone crying to the State.'

It was noted that the day after the State expressed its opinion, the Board met and revoked its suspension of services to Salisbury.

Steve Belcher noted that the reports after the Town Meeting vote had made it clear that Salisbury wished to terminate aduaticiding, and that there had been no action in Salisbury to providing their share of the 25% contribution to the larviciding grant.

Mike Blaisdell observed that all participants are in new territory, and are working to some resolution of the issues. When Paul complained that during the emergency meeting, language had been expressed that showed an issue with Salisbury, he met immediate response: There is an issue. Salisbury is not paying its fair share and is stiffing the other towns.

A comparison was made with the Lemonfair District, composed of three towns, each of whom pays \$6,000. The question of what the State considers an acceptable form of match was

raised.

Doug Perkins recommended doing a 5-town budget, in which the costs allocated to larviciding and adulticiding are identified, on the grounds that the budget needs to reflect the entirety of expenses and income.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Sept. 16.

respectfully submitted,  
stephen belcher