

BLSG Board Meeting
21 October 2021
Draft Minutes

Board Members: Wayne Rausenberger, Richard Russ, Brad Lawes, Mike Blaisdell, Steve Belcher, Doug Perkins, Jeff Whiting, Ben Lawton, Paul Vaczy (Zoom).

BLSG-related: Will Mathis, Kerry White, Bruce Baccei (Zoom).

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Wayne Rausenberger requested an amendment to the agenda, for a discussion of the proposed budget following the Treasurer's report. His amendment was accepted.

The Minutes of Sept. 16 meeting were accepted, after a query from Paul Vaczy that was explained to his satisfaction.

The Treasurer offered his report. Current assets total:

General checking:	\$117,330.82
Equipment/Capital:	\$ 34,934.04
Legal	\$ 6,312.76
Debit Card	\$ 931.39
Total funds available:	\$159,509.01

He noted that there was one unpaid invoice to the State, and that funds available from the State larviciding grant for the year amount to \$13,375.17.

On a motion by Wayne Rausenberger, the report was approved.

The Board then addressed the proposed budget for 2022. The figures presented by the Treasurer aim at level funding and assume that Salisbury will contribute its share. Paul Vaczy informed the Board that there had been no new discussions in Salisbury on this issue.

On the question of chemical supplies, Will Mathis reported that he had received one pallet of product and another was on the way. The discussion then covered other minor items.

Doug Perkins offered an alternate budget lay-out that would identify costs related to adulticiding and those connected with the larviciding (these funded by a State grant, but requiring a 25% match from the BLSG/towns). Not all representatives present had the documents to which he was referring, and so the percentages discussed were moot. His proposal led to an extended discussion on the methods and data required for computing the costs attributable to either program. The mileage for larviciding purposes is recorded, as part of the invoice to the State. Could the labor costs be pro-rated as data?

Paul Vaczy claimed that the 25% match should not be assessed against the towns, and met immediate denial: this is in fact what the towns must contribute.

Doug Perkins then offered a motion that, before the next Board meeting, we should collect the data on vehicle miles. There was no action on this motion.

A motion was made and approved to hold a special meeting to discuss the proposed

budget on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

The LDFLA has proposed a donation to the BLSG; its purposed is so far undefined. One possibility is to use the funds for the improvement of the BLSG premises, that might be named the 'Art Doty Memorial' building. Using the funds to make up for Salisbury's default runs up against the interests of the Leicester members.

This topic led to a question from Paul Vaczy, who claimed that Salisbury had not received its due treatment while still entitled; after calling up his data, Will Mathis assured Paul that the sampling had not justified treatment.

Operations report

Will Mathis reported much work accomplished in the building (photos had been distributed by email). Work is ongoing to ensure a water supply in the building. He hopes to acquire cabinets for the lab. There is a question of permits. We have a bid from Spafford & Sons for a well and pumping system (\$11,390)

In Montpelier, there may be issues: at a meeting Will Mathis attended, there was a proposal for a special permit for truck-mounted adulticide sprayers. This proposal seems specifically aimed at the BLSG, in that numerous organizations (AOT, GMP) use truck-mounted sprayers for herbicides along the roads.

The Operations Report was approved.

Public Relations

Kerry White was present to discuss the possibility of a 'Card Room' presentation in Montpelier. The central question to be presented to law-makers passing by, and perhaps stopping in, would be the source of the Larvicide grant funds, and there seems little certainty on that issue. It is a question to be raised with local legislators. Doug Perkins noted that State funding for milfoil removal on Lake Dunmore varied from year to year.

State Update

Mike Blaisdell reported little. Doug Perkins noted that a newly-signed law abolished the former Pesticide Advisory Panel, replacing it with an Agricultural Innovation Panel. The effects will be defined by the new membership.

Salisbury

Paul Vaczy questioned whether Salisbury had been treated fairly in the period prior to July 1 (end of Larviciding grant from State). Will Mathis drew up the sampling and treatment data and asserted that Salisbury had been treated according to the established guidelines.

By-Laws Committee

Doug Perkins moved to accept the revised By-Laws; the motion was approved.

Doug Perkins then moved acceptance of a Resolution to amend the original Agreement. This motion passed. The Resolution will now be sent to the Select Boards of the member towns for their approval. The further measures required by the name change (IRS id, insurance, banks, etc) will be addressed.

Other Business

The Board discussed fund-raising possibilities (should the shed be named the Art Doty Memorial

Building, an honor Art Doty certainly deserves) and other applications of the proposed LDFLA grant. Purchase of a fan-boat met approval

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher