



BPSA MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Quorum established at 19.1 members; we had 17 members plus 4 proxy votes and three guests from Pike Bay in our audience to start the meeting but had 2 more members attend after the start of the meeting; President Carl Jones called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Secretary Dennis Morton moved to accept the recorded minutes of our last membership meeting of January 25th, 2024; motion 2nded by Al Hunter; motion carried.

Treasurer Jane Thibideau provided the Club members with a statement of our financial affairs as of February 29, 2024. The RBC General account shows a balance of \$23,878.97 consisting of working capital balance - \$22,969.73, plus archery funds - \$93.72; fish stocking funds - \$465.00; and deer feeding funds - \$350.52. The Ways and Means account balance is \$5,520.27. We have 2 x \$15,000 Guaranteed investment certificates. Our income in February totaled \$736.95; \$236.95 from Family Day donations, and \$500.00 from membership dues while our expenses for the same period were \$2,953.51; Hatchery - \$1,005.00; Liability Insurance - \$495.00; Office expense - \$215.00; Clubhouse expense - \$610.00; Family Day expense - \$305.00; and Youth Shoot - \$150.00 (toward the purchase of a new rifle). The 2024 year-to-date income and expenses are \$15,831.05 and \$11,323.87 respectively.

Jane advised that the books of Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association had been turned over to our chartered accountant, BDO in Wiarton, on February 2nd, plus the files on our Boot Scrubber funds, to support the BPSA motion to move \$8,519.04 to our General Account, which had been previously segregated in our records.

Jane made a motion to accept her report; 2nded by Marje Beaver; carried.

Treasurer Jane had requested committee chairpersons to provide info on their anticipated expenses for the calendar year 2024. She explained the particulars of the expenses which amounted to \$33,700.00. A copy of the **budget worksheet** is included in the minutes of this meeting in our permanent files. She made a motion to accept the estimates and designate the funds to operate BPSA for 2024; motion 2nded by Al Hunter; motion carried.

Director Jerry Beaver reported on our membership. BPSA now has 261 members, of which 6 are life-time members and 70 are youths. There are 69 gun-club members and 15 Archery Club members. Marje Beaver reported that BPSA had received the OFAH membership cards arrived and they were available for pick-up by those in attendance. She explained that OFAH would be mailing out the "Ontario Out Of Doors" magazine to members and asked members to contact her if you did not receive their copy. She stressed the importance of the affiliation between OFAH and BPSA, due to their excellent liability insurance and cost savings with some retailers.

Chris Thompson and Randy Lipskie reported that the brown trout fry had been placed in a new space within the hatchery due to their growth. The spring-hatch brown trout will be big enough by the end of March to be stocked in Colpoy's Bay; more info will be forthcoming on the date to arrange for assistance with their stocking (date, time, and place).

Handgun Club President & BPSA Director Al Hunter gave a report for the Handgun Club. Their current membership is 69 members but they have another 11 members who are

completing their probationary shoots. The handgun club has a bank balance of \$29,988.79. Al mentioned that the .22 rifle program is up and running and has been well attended.

The new bullet catchment area is working perfectly and we can now allow the use of full metal jacket ammunition for large bore center fire which is significantly less expensive.

The Youth Shooting program headed up by Rob & Krista Quesnel for 2024 ends with an award presentation on Sunday, March 3rd and Al recognized the excellent work done by Rob & Krista, along with other safety officers and mentors. The Ladies Shooting program is also winding up for the season and he recognized the efforts of a dedicated bunch of Handgun Club members for their assistance in running the program.

Al additionally expressed his appreciation to the HG Club members who had a number of displays at our Family Day open house, including target handguns, antiques, black powder, cowboy shooting, and military firearms. He applauded their efforts in organizing the event, manning the displays, and answering questions to our many guests. Al was pleased to announce that BPSA and Frank Hutter have arranged for an instructor to begin holding PAL courses at our Club, beginning this month and the 1st class is already fully-booked!

Archery Club chairperson, Brenda McLean, reported that the archery club had hosted an archery shoot during our Family Day open house on Feb.19th and she thanked the volunteers who had assisted that day. She advised that she has purchased new strings for our bows and is in the process of re-stringing and placing the nocks. Pres Carl advised that the BPSA was looking at obtaining an equipment storage area for archery supplies and targets. He has made a grant application in the amount of \$8,366.00 to OFAH's Community Conservation Fund; we await confirmation that our grant has been received and confirmed.

Director Chris Thompson made a property report. He confirmed that BPSA has ordered 120 fruit trees from Whiffletree Nursery for a spring delivery. He indicated that there are only 18 trees unspoken for. If interested please contact Chris Thompson or Ray Marklevitz directly or place your name on the order page that is currently on our bulletin board in the Clubhouse. Cost of Trees are \$20.00 to be paid at time of pick up.

Chris reminded the members that he has been in contact with a rep from the Bruce Trail Conservancy and the group would like BPSA's assistance with planting trees on the Vanishing Stream property on Saturday, May 25th. This is an excellent conservation project and the rep was hoping for as many as 50 youths or capable adults to assist them on the project. Please advise Ray or Chris if you can help with the tree planting. Shovels, proper footwear and good work-gloves will be required, as well as healthy legs, arms, and back.

OFAH rep Stu Paterson had forwarded a phone report on his activities with OFAH and Pres Carl played the phone message to the audience. He reported that the Canadian Wildlife Service is considering a sandhill crane hunting season for northern and central Ontario. Stu and Pres Carl had both attended a conservation address at Owen Sound where they learned that round gobies now dominate the food chain in Owen Sound Bay and there are estimates that there may be as many as 118 million of them in the bay. They have replaced the alewife that the fish used to eat. Apparently, because of the change in the chemical nutrients in the gobies, the native lake trout now are able to spawn, whereas they had not been spawning on their alewife fare. However, there was concern expressed about the declining populations of whitefish in the Great Lakes.

Stu had also expressed appreciation to the International Boat Show for supplying us with a number of free admission tickets to their Spring Boat Show.

Al Hunter expressed appreciation to Stu for an excellent article on BPSA's Family Day Open House on Feb.19th that appeared in the Warton Echo newspaper. It was good exposure for our efforts.

Vacancies BPSA presently has 3 vacant director positions; we had one untenured position but have had 2 directors resign in the last month. Motion made by Secretary Dennis Morton that we nominate member, Brenda McLean (archery chairperson), to be a director of BPSA, effective immediately. Brenda expressed her willingness to serve. Motion 2nded by Marje Beaver; voted and carried unanimously.

In "**Other Business**", the following items were discussed:

- President Carl circulated a page of **Constitution and By-Law amendments** that he has been working on diligently for several months. Our present constitution and by-laws were last updated in June, 2017. He reviewed the changes proposed with his audience and explained the reasons for making the amendments, such as a member's obligation to the BPSA; resignation from the Club; authority of the Board of Directors & Officers to reject or deny any application for membership; change the number of directors from 6 to 10. The term of an officer or a director was discussed and it was suggested that the term should be changed from one to two years and this should be addressed at the AGM on March 28th. After any discussion, Jerry Beaver made a motion to make the proposed amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws for Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association; 2nded by Jane Thibideau; motion carried; unanimous. **Secretary's note:** The entire revised constitution and by-laws, as amended Feb.29th, 2024, shall be posted on our BPSA website for all to read.
- President Carl reminded the members that our Annual General Meeting was upcoming on March 28th, 2024 and members should consider running for Executive and Board positions or volunteering for committee chairmanships. Remember to attend or, if going to be absent, send a proxy vote with another member.
- The Ways & Means committee had 5 items up for draw prizes this evening and Alison Gibson and Karen Thomas conducted the ticket draw and presented the items. Thanks to all.

A **motion** was made to adjourn the meeting by Al Hunter; 2nded by VP Kelly Lang; carried. The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.