

Prickly Pear Sportsmen's Association
Association Meeting Minutes
East Helena VFW
April 13, 2021

Board Members:

Chairman of the Board: Jason Swant
Assoc. President: Neil Horne
Assoc. President-Elect: Rick Yearry
Assoc. Treasurer: Annette Rinehart
Assoc. Secretary: Sherri Lionberger
Website Mgr: Vacant
Range Mtnce Officer: Kevin Horn

Director: Larry Cole- exc
Director: Cory Olson
Director: Scott Swingley - exc
Director: Kerry Bartlett
Directors: George Schiller
Director: Paul Kienlen

Meeting start: 7:02 pm Meeting end: 7: pm
Roll call: (see above)

There were 9 board members, the range management officer and 7 members of the Association, for a total of 18 present.

Minutes from September 8, 2020 were read:

Motion made to accept minutes as read by George Schiller, second by Justin Covey. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: beginning balance as of April 1, 2021 was \$55,944.41 with deposits of \$8044.50 and expenses of \$2,178.22. Ending balance was \$61,810.69 and the total in CD's is \$91,853.80. No bills were received. Motion to accept report made by George Schiller and seconded by Kerry Bartlett. Motion passed.

Officers' reports:

Jason – accomplishments for 2020: The state of association is strong with memberships despite a trying year with Covid. The biggest item for 2020 was our new 20 year permit through the FS. PPSA board has been outstanding this last year and went to online meetings for part of the time to keep us functioning and the range open. We delayed election of officers until September and he appreciated everyone staying on. We do have a vacancy on the board with Larry Cole's departure; he was here for 8 years and established a great relationship with the FS. Kevin Horne has been a great addition as RMO and being the face many people see as PPSA. He mentioned the first postal match from last year and that we are having it again. Using our email and listing items for sale by members became more than volunteer resources could deal with, so it was suspended in early March. We hope to make it possible in the future. He reviewed the FWP grant application and the potential projects.

Neil – FS communication committee is normally done by Larry, so Neil is covering. Larry, Neil, Sherri met with Mandy Alvino at FS via zoom February 24. It went well and we reviewed all the FS requirements. No news on the potential for buying the property.

Annette: In 2020 we had 1859 members so we had a record year. We also had a record year for guest passes at 826. Right now we have 75 guest passes and 831 memberships through March, so are holding very steady. Our big expenses for 2020 was to Helena Sand and Gravel for improvements, sealing the parking lot, keys for the gate and our yearly insurance were the high costs.

Kerry – after we got the new FS lease, we looked at where we could get funds to make improvements. We submitted a proposal to FWP and our application met the criteria. It is currently going thru much review from FWP. We should know something in May and it appears we are in pretty good shape. We had put in the 500 yard range with the application, but due to constraints with the FS, we deleted it. So the storage building, solar panel system, and new gate are in the grant application. The solar system will allow us to go to a key pad system instead of our expensive keys. Total cost was \$93,384 and hope to get half from the grant. Neil noted that he was told our grant application was one of the best he had seen in some time.

We need to move the shed where the guest pass system is set up so we can get the new building going. Will be moved tomorrow and Helena Sand starts on the 19th for two days to get the pad built. After that Arco with Justin Covey will do the concrete, then Wattnem construction will start after the concrete is set up. Russ bought the OSB already because the prices are increasing dramatically. Trusses are ordered and they turned out to be \$630 under the original estimate. Solar power will be installed after the building is up with battery backup as required for our systems to function.

Paul Kienlen – The postal shoot sign up is ongoing right now – everything is done through the mail. There is a month to complete it with any vintage military rifle. Sign-ups are a bit down from the last match and could be due to lack of ammunition. You can sign up at any time prior to the end date of June 10.

Rick – we normally have 5-6 events throughout the year, but due to Covid those things did not happen, including the Christmas party which was cancelled. We did do a drawing to support our membership for Christmas. We did the Postal Shoot that didn't require people to gather together. Our sight-in day went well, but with limited advertisement, we kept the numbers low.

Kevin: Most everything has been covered already, and he will be keeping up with the routine maintenance on back boards, targets, etc.

Annette: She gave a synopsis of the new membership program that is done on the internet. It was built in February and went live mid-March. It simply replaces the record keeping for members and cost \$2000. We may be able to have some enhancements done.

Jason – Scott had surgery yesterday and couldn't make tonight's meeting.

Corey – he brought hats tonight if anyone would like to buy them.

Old Business: None

New Business: Election of Officers – George Schiller.

Two directors are timed out (Larry Cole and Scott Swingley) and Scott is interested in serving again. The rest of the board is up for re-election. Nominations are open for president, president elect, treasurer and secretary. Present office holders have agreed to continue serving if no one else is interested. There were no nominations from the floor. The board was elected by acclamation.

The election of two directors was next. Four people were interested in the two positions, and each said something about their background and interest. Scott had Jason read a note on why he was interested in maintaining his position and included his history of work and training background. John McLoughlin - been into firearms his whole life and went to gun smith school at age 19. He teaches at Helena College. Matt Bartlett is a member and likes to give back on boards that he is involved in. He assisted with our current grant application and has worked with government agencies a good bit. Todd Branscum – been a member of PPSA for 30 years. He is very impressed with the last 5 years of progress at the range. Retired from working with the VA last year. He loves to shoot, and since this is his passion, he wants to be more involved.

Votes were counted and Scott Swingley and Matt Bartlett were elected.

Next meeting is September 14.

Annette motioned to adjourn and second by Kerry.

Respectfully submitted by

Sherri Lionberger - secretary