



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
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The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932

Minutes of March 10, 2016 Regular Delegates Meeting

Copperfield's Restaurant, Washington Hollow, NY

President Joe Lurenz called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Joe led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A moment of silence was observed for our Armed Forces members killed in action, and for past Federation members.

There were 31 people present with 22 clubs represented.

Guests

Jon Lucas was introduced as the new delegate from Millbrook Rod & Gun Club.

Robin Moore, secretary from Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, was introduced as possibly interested in our open secretary position.

DEC Lt. Dave Clayton could not attend, but sent a brief report that was relayed by Bill Conners:

- The ECO academy that is in progress has already lost 11 recruits. Hopefully there will be no more. Assuming those are filled and complete the academy, the state will still be short by 60 ECOs based on an ideal full staffing.
- A reminder to all ice fishermen that shanties need to soon be removed from the ice.
- The department is seeking help identifying active bear dens.
- Dave and his staff are gearing up for the upcoming striped bass season on the Hudson River and issued a reminder that there is a daily slot size limit of 1 fish between 18 and 28 inches or 1 fish over 40 inches.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting on February 11, 2016 were accepted.

Motion - Scott Emslie, 2nd – Bernie Walker, Vote - AIF (All in Favor)

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on February 22, 2016 were accepted.

Motion - Scott Emslie, 2nd – Bernie Walker, Vote - AIF

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Motion - Scott Emslie, 2nd – Bernie Walker, Vote - AIF

Treasurer Pete Kraayenbrink reported that dues from the following clubs have not yet been received: Chestnut Ridge, Columbia & Dutchess Ringneck Shooters, Pawling.

Communications

An email was received from the NYS Parks & Recreation agency about upcoming public meetings on the proposed Taconic State Park draft master plan. Meetings are on March 16th and April 2nd.

An email was received about the “Great Thicket” multi-state proposal that would purchase land and/or buy easements to create rabbit type of habitat (thickets, briars). The proposal includes 1500 acres in the Harlem Valley area.

Committee Reports

Hunters Helping the Hungry: Penny Hickman

- The total amount of game meat that has been distributed so far stands at 4110 pounds, but there are 2 deer in the cooler to be processed.
- Penny will be sending out some thank-you notes to the hunting preserves that donate the large amount of bird breasts to the program.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt: Penny Hickman stated that an initial planning meeting will be scheduled in May.

Fish: Ken Rose could not attend the meeting, but sent the state trout stocking information to the secretary, which was relayed to the members by Tom Holsopple.

- The 1st round will be done on 3/23 - 3/29. The 2nd round will be done 4/21 – 4/29.

Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB): Bill Connors

- Bill reported that the NYS Parks & Recreation agency is trying to standardize master plan policies across the state. This has not been the case before with each region setting their own policies.
- More than 260 Million background checks have been done in the NICS system since inception in Nov 1998 through 2014. Another 25 million were done in 2015 and 30 M is expected in 2016. But this does not necessarily mean the actual number of guns purchased, but is more an indicator of activity.
- The proposal to allow prior convicted felons to have jobs as sporting license agents is still on track and has not yet been rejected.
- The Tivoli Bays Multiple Use Area is expanding by 62 acres from a land purchase.
- \$1.5 Million has been allocated for a young forest initiative to create new successional forest habitat.
- There have been some efforts toward closing boat launch sites in the Lake George area, outside of “regular” hours (8:00 – 5:00). That obviously will not accommodate early morning fishermen.
- Bill spoke about his concerns over the loss of tax revenue that would result from the “Great Thicket” proposal, which could have negative financial impact to the affected townships if the loss of property taxes is not addressed. Plus he also questioned the need.

Outdoor Journal: Bill Connors stated that the upcoming spring issue is almost full of articles and ads, but there is still room for several more business card size ads.

Legislation: Paul Annetts

- Paul reported that the NYS Rifle & Pistol Association is dropping their lawsuit against the SAFE Act.
- As an example of misguided legislation, Paul highlighted a proposed bill from a NYC legislator which would limit assault ammo to 2 times the clip capacity every 120 days.
- Paul stated that he has changed the format of his legislative report to hopefully be more readable.

Conservation Education: Scott Emslie

- The Pack Forest camp has re-opened. Of the 2 kids we are sponsoring to that camp, 1 is confirmed and Scott is still awaiting confirmation from the 2nd.

- So far, 13 of our sponsored kids are confirmed.
- Dave Wohlbach's sister Sally Wohlbach is donating a sponsorship in Dave's memory. Details are in process.

New York State Conservation Council No report given.

Unfinished (Old) Business None to report.

New Business

Skip North of Millerton Rod & Gun Club is seeking any input on the Rudd Pond Plan, which is part of the Taconic State Park plan mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Tom Holsopple reported the he will have the updated 2016 Federation Directory available by the April meeting. He will email the electronic document format to delegates as well as have some printed copies available for those who want it in that format.

Bob Jenks, of the Northern Dutchess Longrifles 4-H club, asked clubs or interested parties to consider a donation for a special limited-time CCI Ammo purchasing program that is offering very inexpensive .22 ammo to youth clubs.

A motion was made and passed for the Federation to donate money to buy one case of ammo.

Motion – Penny Hickman, 2nd – Paul Annetts, Vote – AIF.

Announcements

Scott Emslie reminded delegates of the upcoming Mid-Hudson Friends of NRA banquet on 4/16.

A flyer was received from Certified Marine announcing a Striped Bass Seminar in Kingston on 3/20. For info call 339-3060 or go to their website www.hudsonriverstripedbass.com

The 50/50 raffle was won by Craig Velie.

Next meeting date: April 14th

The meeting was adjourned at 08:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple (Acting Secretary)