



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
www.dutchessfishandgame.org

The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932

Minutes of May 12, 2016 Regular Delegates Meeting

Copperfield's Restaurant, Washington Hollow, NY

President Joe Lurenz called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

Scott Emslie 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, for Director Emeritus Bill Reiner who passed away last week, and for past secretary Cathy Culkin.

There were 27 people present with 21 clubs represented.

Guests

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

- There is a new captain: Martin Townley.
- The officers have been doing Hudson River patrols, with violations mostly related to striped bass and herring.
 - A reminder that marine registration is required to fish the river.
- Muskellunge season is now open, with bass season scheduled to open the 3rd Saturday in June.
- The current ECO academy is down to 32 trainees.
- ECOs uncovered an illegal venison operation in Otsego county, with more than 3600 lbs of venison and products found in a butcher shop. It is illegal to sell wild deer in NYS.

Bill also reported on the following related items:

- There are trapping regulation changes coming next season. Check the DEC site for the news press releases.
- There are no new plans for expansion of mandatory antler restrictions. It will be by voluntary compliance.
- The DEC is asking all hunters to participate in a brief 10-question online survey about their views on deer management. Bill encouraged all to take the survey at this web address:
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2767830/NYSDEC-Deer-Management-Planning-2016>
- The survey is being done in conjunction with some 2016 Deer Management Update sessions. The session materials will soon be available on their web site.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting on April 14, 2016 were accepted.

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

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on April 25, 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 all club dues have been received.

Communications

Paul Annetts read a letter from Poloma Capana about the SAFE Act amicus brief. Ms. Capana is the lawyer involved with presenting the brief to the courts. The letter mentioned the status of related cases.

Bill Conners noted that of the approximately 154 sponsors of the brief, 17 were from Dutchess County. This demonstrates our involvement with sportsmen's issues, as compared to other counties.

Paul also read an email from Rick McDermott of the Crossbow Coalition. That organization is seeking support from sportsmen groups to push for legislation to make the crossbow a legal bow in all hunting seasons.

Upon a motion by Bill Conners and a 2nd by Anthony Pittore, the delegates voted in favor of officially supporting this effort. AIF.

Committee Reports

Fish: Ken Rose reported that 54,000 fish were stocked in the county, including many 2-yr old fish. Many thanks to Ken, Dick Decker, and Anthony Pittore.

Hunters Helping the Hungry: Bill Conners, reporting for Penny Hickman, stated that 4300 lbs. of game meat has been distributed so far.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt: Bill reporting for Penny, stated that a committee planning meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on 5/19 at the Kraayenbrink barn in Hyde Park.

Outdoor Journal: Bill Conners reported that some issues have delayed the Spring edition. As a result, any ads from advertisers will also be placed in the Fair edition.

Dutchess County Fair Exhibit: Ken Foster stated that the Fair will be held on August 23-28 this year. NRA materials are being ordered. Ken will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting, so he asked the delegates to ask for volunteers from their clubs to fill the 18 time slots.

Publicity/Promotions: Bill mentioned that he set up a display at the recent Earth Day event at the Dover High School, with the primary purpose of observing how best to get kid's attention. He feels that a taxidermy mount of a fisher would draw in the kids to our display.

Legislation: Paul Annetts reported:

- There are many bills in play.
- There has been no movement on any of the Safe Act repeal bills.
- There has been no further progress on a deer urine scent ban. DEC has put it on hold while it gets input from all stakeholders.
- There is a bill to greatly increase the fine amount for deer violations.
- At a Federal level, the Obama administration is pushing for smart guns. They are also pushing for more sharing of mental health records

New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners reported the following Albany related news:

- There is a new executive deputy commissioner: Ken Lynch
- There are some questions around how to fund invasive species control. Bill's thoughts are that since there are about 450,000 boat registrations in NYS, why not ask for an additional \$1-\$2 per registration to help fund the effort. Why should the Conservation Fund alone be used to fund it?
- There is a lot of personnel shuffling in the DEC and some division realignment.
- In addition to the bill on the crossbow, there are bills to allow 12 yr olds to hunt big game and to allow cable restraints for trapping. But it does not look hopeful for these to be passed.
- There is no funding for any 480A plan changes.

Unfinished (Old) Business

None to report.

New Business

Bill Conner relayed his last conversation with Bill Reiner, a day before Reiner passed away.

Joe Lurenz stated that in consideration of the upcoming Supreme Court appointment, he reminded everyone to get out and vote this fall. As a voting block, sportsmen could exert much influence in any given election. But to do so, we have to vote.

President Joe Lurenz announced that he appointed Bob Jenks of the Northern Dutchess Long Rifles club to the open Board of Directors position.

Announcements

Whortkill Rod & Gun Club will be holding an 80th anniversary party in June.

Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club will hold a .22 shoot on May 22nd and a steel plate shoot on June 5th.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Dave Compton.

Next meeting date: June 9th

The meeting was adjourned at 08:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple (Acting Secretary)