



## Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603  
[www.dutchessfishandgame.org](http://www.dutchessfishandgame.org)

*The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932*

### **March 22, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting**

*Ti Yogi Bowmens Club, Hyde Park, NY*

**Attendance:** Bill Conners, Scott Emslie, Ken Foster, Ralph Hafner, Tom Holsopple, Pete Kraayenbrink, Anthony Pittore, Ken Rose, Chris Villa

Guests: None

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by Chairman of the Board Anthony Pittore.

#### **Organizational Business**

A motion was made by Pete Kraayenbrink and seconded by Ralph Hafner to re-elect Anthony Pittore as Chairman of the Board. AIF (All in favor).

A motion was made by Scott Emslie and seconded by Bill Conners to continue the Treasurer's discretion to retain our banking accounts with same bank. AIF.

A motion was made by Scott Emslie and seconded by Bill Conners to continue the Treasurer's discretion to retain our liability insurance and Treasurer's bond with the same insurance company, at the same levels of coverage. AIF.

A motion was made by Ken Foster and seconded by Scott Emslie to keep the regular delegates' meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month and at the same recent location Pino's Pizzeria Restaurant, when regular meetings are resumed. AIF.

This is contingent upon the viability of the current venue to adhere to pandemic regulations at the time of the meeting, and if they are even still in business. Anthony Pittore will follow up with Pino's.

A motion was made by Ken Rose and seconded by Scott Emslie to keep the Board of Directors meeting date and place the same, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at Ti Yogi Bowmens Club in Hyde Park. AIF.

President's appointment of Director-at-Large:

No one was appointed or recommended by the President, so the office of Director-at-Large will remain vacant again this year.

A motion was made by Scott Emslie and seconded by Bill Conners to remain a continuing member of the NRA for this year. AIF.

A moment of silence was observed for Penny Hickman.

Chris Villa asked members to keep Bernie Walker in their thoughts & prayers.

## **Financial Report**

Accepted as presented, both the 2020 report and the 2019 year-to-date report.

## **Committees**

### **Annual Dinner**

With the loss of the previous chair Penny Hickman, the Board is seeking a chair person for this committee.

### **Hunters Helping the Hungry**

Anthony Pittore reported that from January 2020 through March 2021, 3,836 pounds of game meat was distributed.

### **Fish**

Ken Rose reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> round of trout stocking began last week and will continue for the remaining streams this week & next week. Due to the re-classification of the upper portion of Wappingers Creek as “*Wild Quality*” category, that part will not be stocked, but other sections will be stocked every 2 weeks.

Ken Rose asked if we still wish to stock Morgan Lake. The Board consensus was yes, especially since we have budgeted for it.

Anthony Pittore stated that plans are moving ahead for the Family Fishing Day April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at Overlook Park in Lagrange. DEC participation is unknown at this point due to pandemic restrictions, but they will still likely provide fish and maybe rods. If they do not participate, then it can't be called a “fishing clinic” type of event, so it won't be free fishing, meaning a fishing license will be required.

### **Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt**

Anthony Pittore stated that he would like to hold the hunt this year and will be reviewing the list of participants from 2019. Again, it is contingent on DEC pandemic restrictions at the time.

### **Conservation Education**

Scott Emslie reported that the DEC has cancelled the conservation camps again this year. Scott also mentioned that the DEC is planning to restart in-person hunter education classes as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Preparation homework required of the students would still be done online.

### **Publications/Publicity**

Ken Foster stated that at this point, the Dutchess County Fair is planned for August 25-29, but attendance may be limited, maybe by requiring prepaid admission tickets. This may very well be subject to change. The Board discussed possible content ideas for our booth.

## **Legislation**

Bill Connors discussed a number of topics, including:

- A panfish management plan is under discussion, with possible creel limits and size limits changes.
- The Whitetail Deer Management Plan, including the late newly established “holiday” late season.
- Allowing 12-year-olds to hunt big game and extending crossbow use are included in the Governor's budget proposal. The Senate left those in their bill, but the Assembly did not. Unknown outcome at this point.
- Gun legislation (at the state level): there are too many bills to mention.
- But one involves banning the use of lead ammo on state lands and NYC Reservoir water properties.
- Trout Stream Management Plan, which included stocking plan updates, stream and stream section re-classifications, and creel/size limit restrictions.
- The assault rifle bill (at the federal level), the details of which Bill emailed to the members. House bill number HR1808.

- The 2020 bear harvest report was released. 1,723 were taken, up from 2019.
- Still awaiting the 2020 deer harvest report.
- DEC/ASMFC mandatory use of circle hooks in Marine fisheries.
- With 2 more ECOs added, Dutchess County is now staffed with 3 ECOs. They are:

Deo Reed	(845) 240-6758
Charles Eyer	(845) 490-9868
Kevin Wamsley	(914) 263-7819

**New York State Conservation Council**

Bill Connors report that the physical office in Ilion NY is now closed. Unfortunately, the funds saved by that closure were offset by the hiring of an Executive Director. Finances are still tenuous and communications are still very poor, with no apparent end in sight to those situations and no understanding of their direction.

Bill asked for the Board’s guidance on continuing our support. Upon a motion by Ken Rose and a second by Chris Villa, the Board decided to withhold our 2021 dues for now, until a marked improvement is seen within the Council organization. The hope is that they will eventually rebound to become an effective lobbying organization for the sporting community, especially since they have statutory seats on state-level boards, like the FWMB.

**Communications**

Several emails were received from individuals inquiring about the Upton Lake situation.

**Old Business**

Upton Lake Property:

Bill Connors is moving ahead with supplying permits to those who want to use the property, with a plan to eventually provide associated parking permits for the vehicle. The person does not have to show the permit to any neighboring landowner, but can state they have it and that Federation members have used the access for many, many years. We’ll see how that goes. Call Bill at 845-635-1606 to obtain a free permit.

Pete provided a quote for Officer & Directors liability insurance, for \$500 annually for \$3M coverage. The Board tabled further discussion, while members consider the proposal.

The Board discussed when regular delegates meetings might resume. The consensus was that it is still a little too early to restart the meetings. But with the vaccine rolling out, it is possible that we can resume them in early to mid summer. Due to that fact, Board meeting minutes will be emailed to the delegates until then.

**New Business**

Treasurer Pete Kraayenbrink reported that 3 clubs have not yet paid their 2021 dues:

110 Rod & Gun, Hudson Valley BassMasters, and Columbia & Dutchess Ringneck Shooters.

Per our By-Laws, they will not be allowed to vote at any delegate’s meeting if their dues are not received by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pete requested approval to pay our usual amount to Ti Yogi Bowmens club for use of their clubhouse for our Board meetings. Upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Chris Villa, the request was approved.

Ken Foster stated that he has a club member who wants to improve the communications amongst our member clubs, such as emailed notifications of club events, maybe a periodic newsletter email, etc... The Board suggested inviting him to a delegates meeting to present his ideas.

Anthony Pittore reminded the Board that he maintains a Facebook page for the Federation and posts information there. He indicated that it is followed by a number of people.

Scott Emslie, speaking for Jackie Emslie, stated that there are many people looking for firearms training. This includes many first-time gun buyers. He strongly suggested that clubs consider hosting training events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Holsopple,  
Secretary