



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

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

November 10, 2022 – Short Hills Restaurant, Washington Hollow

The meeting was opened at 7:40 PM by President Anthony Pittore. Following the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Ralph Hafner, a moment of silence was observed for armed service member, first responders, and past Federation members. Anthony thanked past and present military members for their service – five (5) were in attendance.

Roll Call:

Guests: None

Communications: None reported.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by Scott Emslie, followed by a second, then passed by unanimous vote.

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on October 13, 2022, accepted by unanimous vote on a motion by Scott Emslie, and seconded.

The meeting minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of October 24, 2022, were presented and accepted by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports

Annual Dinner:

Anthony Pittore reported that he and Chris Villa have visited Mills Creek in Hopewell Junction to review possibility of using the venue for the annual dinner. They have also spoken to Villa Borghese and their price would come in a more then \$100 including what we have to add to cover comps. Mills Creek came in a \$75+/- . Anthony reported that Mills Creek is as nice a Villa Borghese. Mills Creek is available for a March 11, 2023, dinner.

A decision must be made soon, and we will likely have to commit to 90 people.

Discussion followed and the reaction was mixed. We have to get solid commitments from clubs/members. Conners suggested a small minimum, i.e., 75 people.

Board will discuss and then get back to members by email.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony reported last of 450 pounds are gone. Freezers are empty and one in cooler. Anthony for donations Anthony asked for butcher volunteers on Tuesday nites.

Processing facility is a mess. Need volunteers to clean it up. Room will be locked after cleaning. Call Anthony to volunteer for cleaning crew at 914-755-9663.

To donate deer, call Anthony at 914-755-9667 or Conners at 845-635-1606.

Program has been operational since 1994. We have provided meat for 500,000 meals, processing over 10,000 pounds in one year. Let's keep it going.

John Lucas offered pheasants from a tower shoot at Millbrook Rod and Gun Club. Will need volunteers for processing. Date of the shoot is TBD.

Fish

Ken Rose was not in attendance. Stocking is complete except for possible final stocking of Morgan Lake; Ken . usually schedules that for late December. He will likely report his plan at the Nov. BoD meeting.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

Anthony Pittore [hunt coordinator] reported that Tom Fiumarello has ordered two commemorative awards (engraved plates) for Jones Sanitation and the Milan Fire District to be presented to both organizations in appreciation of their support for the hunt. Jones Sanitation has provided two Porta-Potties each year starting with the first hunt and the Milan Fire District has provided their brush truck for many years to fill the cooling pools for the dogs. [EDITORIAL] If anyone in our organization has a septic tank pumped by anyone other than Jones, shame on you. We cannot continue to ask business to support our projects if we don't support their business.

Conservation Education

Scott Emslie reported that he has received some applications for the Conservation Camps. Scott reported that each club may submit candidates for camp for one boy and one girl for each of the two camps: Camp DeBruce [11-13 years-old] and Pack Forest [14-17 years old].

From the DEC website: ***Registration for the 2023 DEC Summer Camp season will be opened in early 2023. Updates and changes can be found on the Camps' main web page and on both DEC's Facebook and Summer Camps' Facebook pages.***

On the web go to: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/education/61769.html> for a complete explanation of the registration process.

Remember, if you plan to enter a child for sponsorship by the Federation, you **MUST** contact Scott Emslie at: (914) 475-1135. You may also contact him by email at: rsemslie51@gmail.com

Because DEC has not established the 2023 Camp Schedule, Scott reported that he doesn't know when applications need to be submitted. If you plan to submit a name for sponsorship by the Federation you should do it by year-end unless you hear otherwise.

If you have any questions call Scott Emslie at: 914-475-1135.

Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Connors provided BRIEF overview of where legal action is on the Hochul Gun Law, A.K.A the ***Concealed Carry Improvement Act***. Because litigation continues, he cautioned everyone to be very cautious when transporting guns and to get advice if you have concerns or doubts regarding your firearms.

Connors provided a few [very few] kits for the collection of blood and tissue samples from hunter-harvested deer to be tested by Cornell University's Wildlife Lab. The testing is an ongoing effort to determine the damage being inflicted on the state's deer herd by Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease [EHD]. Patrick Connelly, DVM, of Cornell, was to be here this evening, but had to cancel.

Connors reported that EHD has impacted the Hudson Valley disproportionate to the rest of the state. The disease will be discussed in depth at the state Fish and Wildlife Management Board meeting in Hamilton, New York on November 14-15. Connors will be chairing the meeting.

Connors also reported that calls to the Deer Search Dispatch line have been weak. Most of his calls have been hunters asking for assistance outside the Hudson Valley.

The Legislature is not in session. They typically reconvene in early January. There are no bills to report that this time.

Connors suggested that Hochul will probably push [or attempt to push] a record number of gun laws through the Legislature in 2023.

New York State Conservation Council Bill Connors — no activity to report. NYSCC continues to struggle financially.

FWMB — as reported by Connors, there is an upcoming state Fish and Wildlife Management Board meeting at the White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, NY on November 14 – 15. Connors will chair the meeting. On the agenda are: EHD, CWD, Avian Flu, Invasives such as the Round Goby, Asian Carp, etc.

50/50 Raffle

According to Anthony, tickets sales are slow. Drawing will be in January. Delegates need to get their clubs to "buy-in", the 50/50 is a major source of income for the Federation.

Ken Foster reported that he has authored a letter to club Presidents explaining that we are about 50% of the way thru the sales window and we need to become more aggressive with the sales. The letter will be emailed to everyone by Tom Holsopple.

Anthony reminded members that the funds are used for the JrPH, Family Fishing Day, Conservation Camps, etc. (via the Federation's ***Conservation Awareness Foundation*** [501c3]).

Youth Shooting Program

Tom Gannon reported that the program has picked up a few additional shooters (four (40 from the JrPH). The kids that participate do not necessarily attend each session The last two events there were seven (7) shooters each time. Tom thanked Chris Villa, Tom Fiumarello, Lucas Bliss, Garbled name from Northern Dutchess, Ralph Savoy from 110 Rod and gun, Southern Dutchess and Putnam Sporting Assoc., Clay pigeon Dave, and others for their assistance, support and donations.

Tom said he would welcome additional volunteers and he encouraged more clubs to become involved. He offered to visit any club to explain the program to their members.

Anthony told Tom that the Board discussed writing an NRA grant request for funds to finance the purchase of ammo for the program.

Unfinished (Old) Business

Anthony Pittore reminded folks to call if they do not plan to attend the delegates meeting but are on the Standing Reservation List. thanked previous Federation President Chris Villa for all of his efforts throughout his term. This garnered a round of applause from the assembly.

New Business

Tom Fiumarello (and Judy) spoke about a tour they took of the Cornell University Canine Lab. Tom has raised more than \$100K for canine cancer research and he encouraged anyone in need of high-level care for their pets or hunting partners is beyond what is available locally, to contact Cornell. He offered his help if you need it. If you would like to talk to Tom about the Cornell program call him at 845-625-3151.

Anthony reported that the CAF BoD is discussing working as a sponsor of Tom's fund-raising program for Cornell. The Board will report as discussions continue.

Nominating Committee Report:

Board Positions:

Mike Butts, David Compton, Scott Emslie, Chris Villa (Currently Director-at-Large)

Officers:

Pres. Anthony Pittore, 1st V.P. Ken Foster, 2nd V.P. Ralph Hafner, Legis V.P. Bill Conners, Secretary Tom Holsope, Treasurer Peter Kraayenbrink.

Announcements

Northern Dutchess is looking for a used [but not abused] trap machine. Tom Fiumarello suggested that they call Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays in New Paltz; they may be selling some units. The number is 845-255-7460. There was also a suggestion to call Ray O'Dell because he repairs machines and may know if there is anything available. Ray's number is 845-635-8495.

50/50 raffle winner — Guess Who?

Next regular meeting date: December 8, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Conners
Secretary Pro-Tem