



## 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*

### **January 11, 2024 Regular Delegates Meeting**

JB's Bar & Grill, James Baird State Park, Pleasant Valley, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:37 PM by President Anthony Pittore

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anthony Pittore.

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel, first responders, and past Federation members.

Roll Call: 29 people were in attendance, representing 21 clubs.

#### **Guests**

**DEC ECO Kevin Wamsley** discussed the following:

- Has been doing fish checks on the lower Hudson River, mostly for striped bass.
- Response to a question about hunting feral hogs. Not currently allowed legally. It tends to disperse the rest and does not really help reduce the numbers. When they get calls about them, they are supposed to contact the federal agency.
- He has not heard of any reports of EHD disease instances.
- Response to a question about an injured raptor. He suggested trying various DEC phone numbers or check the DEC site for rehabilitators in the area. Although many are not taking birds due the avian flu outbreak.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by Adam Yasiejko. All-in-favor (AIF).

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on December 14, 2023 were approved upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by Adam Yasiejko. AIF

There was no Board of Directors meeting since the last regular meeting.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Hunters Helping the Hungry**

Anthony Pittore: We are getting deer from the Vassar College cull, about 14 so far.

4,851 pounds of game meat was distributed in 2023. There is 700 pounds in the freezer awaiting distribution and 7 deer in the cooler. The committee could use some help when they get a lot of deer in. Processing is done on Tuesday late afternoon/evening starting around 3:30-4:30. Please contact Anthony or Mike Butts.

## Fish

Anthony Pittore: The winter stocking of Morgan Lake in Poughkeepsie was delayed due to weather and will likely take place next week.

The Federation's Family Fishing Day will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Overlook Park in Lagrange, with the Trout Unlimited Veterans Fishing Day held the day before on the 20<sup>th</sup> at the same location.

## Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

This year's hunt will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Conservation Education

Dave Morrison stated that 16 kids have signed up for our DEC Camp sponsorships. He will be sending out letters to them with all the details. Registration opens on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Pete Kraayenbrink reported that the state has changed the process for redeeming the 1 free registration for every 6 paid. The free ones will be applied to the following year's camps. We currently have funds in our state account for 12 kids. Upon a motion by Bill Conners and a second by Jim Guyette, the delegates voted to add more funds to sponsor all 16 kids this year.

## Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Conners:

- Provided the 2024 Legislative Guide. It is not completely finalized yet, but the elected officials' phone numbers should be accurate. He will provide more copies when it is complete and will also email it out.
- He emailed out a legislative alert about Assembly bill A8443. It would give the state Attorney General the authorization to fine out-of-state businesses who sell ammo to NY residents. It is only a 1-house bill and not likely to get far given jurisdiction and interstate commerce questions. But Bill suggested placing calls to the sponsor Assemblyman to make our displeasure known.

## Publicity/Promotions

Ken Foster stated that the Board decided not to utilize our booth at the Dutchess County Fair this year, and allow Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club use it.

Bill Conners discussed possibly publishing a Kids Activity booklet this year as an outreach effort.

## New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners. The Executive Director has resigned and the Council is seeking a replacement. There are 2 candidates so far.

## Communications

Anthony Pirrore reported that we received a donation from a local business in Dave Wohlbach's name for the Junior Hunter Pheasant Hunt.

## Unfinished (Old) Business

Dave Compton gave a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the proposed ByLaws changes that were presented last month. The changes as presented last month and in this 2<sup>nd</sup> reading are as follows:

- Article III Membership: A change that would establish a 12 month probationary period for new Affiliate and Youth Affiliate membership applicants.
  - Explanation: This would allow for organizations to join the Federation, but then determine if their goals and mission align with the Federation's mission.
- Article IV Delegates: Adds a 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President position
  - Explanation: To allow for another leadership role in the Federation.

- Article XIV Rules of Order and Amendments: Reduces the number of meetings to implement a By-Laws change.
  - Explanation: Instead of a reading at meeting 1, a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at meeting 2, then a vote at meeting 3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading at meeting 2 would be eliminated. To allow for changes to adopted more quickly.

### **New Business**

Tom Fiumarello stated that the tentative date for this year's Federation Clay Shoot fundraiser is July 27<sup>th</sup>. About \$16,000 was raised at last year's event. He expects it to be a bigger event than last year, with more shooters. It will need more volunteers and improved organization of work tasks. It was suggested that the clubs be asked to provide help, maybe asking for time slot sign-ups.

Tom also stated that the Canine Cancer Clay Shoot fundraiser will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>. \$105,000 was raised at last year's event, with funds going to 2 Cornell facilities. A small amount was also donated to help a Pine Plains woman with cancer who is the sister of the manager at Mashomack Preserve Club who have donated bird meat to the HHH program in the past.

### **Announcements**

Anthony Pittore, speaking for Scott Emslie, stated that the Mid-Hudson Friends of NRA annual banquet will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

50/50 raffle winner – Jack Evans.

Next regular meeting date: February 8, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Holsopple,  
Secretary