

NORTHWEST CT SPORTSMAN'S COUNCIL

MINUTES: APRIL 26, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm by Council President, Chris Marino. All rise for Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of clubs, delegates & officers:

Elise Mauriello, Ye Olde Newgate Coon Club; Jim Upton, Goshen Sportsmen; Mike Fusco, Harwinton Rod & Gun; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem W & C Club; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem W & CC; Bob Andryzeck, Connecticut Trappers Assoc; Jim Fedorich, Sharon Fish & Game; Jerry Ciarcia, Watrbury Fish & Game; Peter Gray, NWCSA; Dom Basile, Chase, Bell City, Metacon; Ray Schmid and Conrad Sansovcie, Bethlehem W & C Club; Clyde Breakell Foothills Sportsmen; Craig Nelson New Preston Rod & Gun; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington Fish & Game, Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Phil Mauriello, Woodbury/Southbury Rod & Gun; Thomas Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen Assoc; Andrew Cote, NW R&G; Dean Fraley, Ousatonic Fish & Game; Chris Marino, NVBC.

All officers present.

Minutes from meeting of March 22, 2005 read and accepted

Treasurer's report read and accepted.

The treasurer's report from last month remains the same with the exception of the following: The proceeds for the Henry raffle have not been deposited as yet. The monthly statements were pulled and given to our accountant for income tax preparation, so we were unable to update the books and generate a report.

Our first quarter sales tax liability is estimated at \$422.19. This is primarily from banquet sales. Chris reported checking with the state upon filing the sales tax report. He learned that as a non-profit organization, we are allowed to run several fundraisers throughout the year without incurring any sales tax liability for the event's sales. Because we are organized as a 501© 4, we are not exempt from paying sales tax on items we purchase for the events. Therefore our tax report was filed without any sales tax due.

We had one retuned check from the dinner. It was for \$30. Jason checked with the owner of the check and found that payment had been made in cash.

The bill for the raffle tickets is \$84.80 and Clyde is authorized to pay.

The federal tax return will be ready in a week and will be sent in.

Membership:

A motion was made to accept the Bethlehem Wildlife & Conservation Club as Council members. The motion received a second and was approved. We welcome the Bethlehem Wildlife & Conservation Club to the Council.

Ray Schmidt will be the delegate and Tony Chianese will be the alternate. We now appear to have 28 clubs in the Council, with a total of over 7000 members.

Committees:

Rapid Response:

Ed Parker indicated that the wildlife regulations proposals, which were initially rejected by the regs review committee were back for reconsideration.

Chris sent an email to our delegates to call Sen. Roraback and urge him to support the proposals. The proposed regs subsequently passed. Our Council delegates did an outstanding job to gain support for the proposals.

We want to start to create a database of emails so we can expand our alert system to as many Council members as possible.

It appears that the "long gun registration" portions of the firearms bill have been dropped. The bill number is: 6657. This would have required paperwork similar to what is now required to purchase a handgun. We must remain vigilant to insure these provisions are not re-introduced.

Conservation Advisory Council:

Our CAC members met with the new DEP Commissioner; Gina McCarthy. Mrs. McCarthy gave an overview of the issues she believes are important to the success of the BNR side of the Agency.

If Sportsmen want to use the tip trailers, they are available for events. Requests for functions should be made to DEP SGT. Lewoc in Hartford. Give them one-month notice as minimum.

The proposal for mandatory use of florescent orange hats was discussed at CAC and voted down. It was felt that regulations are becoming burdensome; that 90 to 95% of all hunters now voluntarily wear the orange hats, and that the value of these hats as protective gear is currently being stressed in all Hunter Safety Classes.

Club Raffle:

The Henry raffle tickets are needed by the 20th of May.

Drawing will be on Sunday, 5/22/05 at noon at the council headquarters. All members should get either their tickets or money back to Chris asap.

Investment Committee:

Clyde Breakell, Jason Marshall, and Joe Rinaldi are the committee members.

Options:

1. The CD investment has the benefit of being insured up to \$100,000. There are set terms of 6mo, 1yr, 2yr, or 5yr. rates are low; 2%.

2; Mutual Funds in balanced fund portfolio.

Similar to pension plans. Mixture of stocks & bonds. The money is not guaranteed, but there is a greater return possible. Money can be withdrawn at any time.

After much discussion there was a motion made as follows: Craig Nelson made a motion to, "divide \$20,000 between our regular checking account and an interest bearing savings account. Another \$20,000 is to be invested in a balanced, mutual fund. The Council Treasurer to administer the checking and savings account, the Investment Committee to set up and administer the mutual fund investment." Seconded by Drew Cote. Motion Approved.

By-laws: No report.

A donation of \$500 was given to the Coalition of CT Sportsmen via Bob Crook and a thank you has been received.

Old Business:

A motion was made by Clyde B. and seconded by

Mike F. to make a donation of \$100.00 to the Working Lands alliance. Motion was approved.

The insurance matter was discussed. Jason will pursue the NY State Conservation Council for insurance and Craig Nelson will check with the NRA.

The web site will be updated to include Chase, Bell City and Metacon.

The nwesc, "range disclosure proposal" will be pursued by Rep. Sean Williams according to Dom. The wording will be changed and it will be introduced.

New Business:

Rep. Sean Williams would like to visit our council and meet with us. Dom will set it up.

Chris reported that he planted 325 seedlings purchased through the NH State Nursery in starter beds. Species include fox grape, virginia rose, wetlands rose and mtn. ash.

There is a 3 day forestry & habitat seminar in the fall from 9/8 to 9/11 sponsored by the UCONN Extension Service and CT Parks and Forest & RGS. The applications for the seminar are available from Jason or Chris. You have to commit to 1 year of public service and it is limited to only 30 people. If interested contact Jason or Chris asap.

Nominating Committee, Jerry and Mike indicated that all existing officers would run again. The secretary is still open. We will have our election next May.

The Chase newsletter was handed out by Dom.

The NW CT NRA Banquet chairman; Dave Olson, needs help for this year's banquet preparation.

The CT State Forestry Committee has a final 10-year statewide forestry plan. Chris handed out copies of the plan to all.

Jim from trout unlimited indicated that there are 6 fly fishing outfits free to various clubs and high schools. They are meeting with the high schools and will offer them. They have met with Housatonic Valley Regional HS for the fall. This program is also available to our members.

Good of the Council:

6/2/05: Friends of NRA at the Fireside Inn in Newtown,CT.
Craig has the tickets for a table.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm