

Council Report: May 24, 2005

Meeting was called to order by the Council President at 7:35PM. All rise for Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll of Delegates, Clubs and Officers:

NP R&G, Craig Nelson; Woodbury/Southbury R&G, Phil Mauriello; Olde Newgate Coon Club, Elise Mauriello; Torrington F&G, Joe Rinaldi; Goshen Sportsmen's Assoc., Tom Accuosti; NWCSA, Pete Gray; Waterbury F&G, Jerry Ciarcia; NW Trout Unlimited, Jim Bower; Chase, Bell City, Metacon, Dom Basile; Bethlehem Wildlife & Conservation, Ray Schmid and alternate, Bret Hodorski; Foothill's Sportsmen, Clyde Breakell; NVBC, Chris Marino.

President, Chris Marino and Treasurer, Clyde Breakell in attendance.

Minutes of April 26th, 2005 meeting distributed and reviewed. Minutes were approved with one change to list the alternate for Bethlehem as Brett Hadorski.

Financial Report: Clyde reported the opening of an interest bearing, money market, savings account for the Council. He has set up online services for the future transfer of funds between checking and savings accounts. Funds have been transferred to the Savings account. Clyde is still looking into CD procurement. Both of our accounts are with First National Bank of Litchfield. No substantial change in account balances reported other than the transfer of funds. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made and approved.

Correspondence: None.

Committee Reports:

Henry Raffle: We held our in-house, raffle drawing May 22nd at Council HQ. About eight members in attendance. Council President Chris Marino drew the winning ticket. The winner of the Henry rifle was Buddy Milo of Torrington. Our congratulations go out to Buddy. He bought a lot of tickets and really wanted to win this rifle. It was good to see such a strong Council supporter win this raffle. This effort was very successful.

Rapid Response: Commentary submitted to, and published by the Waterbury Rep-American responding to statements by the CT Citizens Against Gun Violence.

CAC: No report.

Old Business:

A request for Council funding to finish the net covering for the western raceway at the Burlington Hatchery was referred to the Council by Jim Fedorich. Material was needed to finish the last 10 to 15 feet of the raceway and to create gates at each pool section. This material would complete the Council funded project that NW Trout Unlimited initiated in 2004 as a Council member club. The price for material to complete this project is less than \$500.00 and a request to fund this purchase was made to delegates by Chris Marino. A motion was made to "authorize payment for the netting to complete our project, not to exceed \$500.00" by Peter Gray; seconded by Jerry Ciarcia. Discussion followed ending with a vote to approve the motion.

By-laws:

Phil brought up the situation regarding updating the Council by-laws. Too much time has elapsed without addressing by-law needs for corporate purposes and Council policy. It was suggested that our Board of Directors consist of the four executive officers and from three to five board members. The delegates offered to review the current by-laws and come up with suggestions at the June meeting. Joe made copies of the current by-laws for all present to review. We will discuss suggestions at the June meeting.

Council Insurance:

Craig Nelson moves to authorize "Jason Marshall to make application for an insurance quote from the NYCCC." Motion receives second. Discussion. Motion approved.

Discuss need for Director's insurance. It was felt that we should take care of liability and corporation issues first.

New Business:**Elections:**

A motion was made and approved to defer the Council election of Officers to the June meeting. Several members have expressed interest in running for positions and this delay will allow the nomination committee time to assess interest and develop a slate of nominees.

Ray Schmid reported on meeting Representative Sean Williams and found Sean to be very pro-sportsman. Ray reported that Sean sees our organization as very active and contrasted that activism with that of sportsman organization initiatives from other parts of the state. Ray observed that the answer to the question of whether this organization is doing any good is an apparent yes! We are well known and respected through much of the legislature and the state.

Dom Basile reported on meeting Representative Kevin Delgobbo, who is also very favorable to sportsmen and issues such as firearms ownership. Dom also reported on the current status of the three clubs he represents: Bell City, Chase and Metacon.

It is important for all of our members to take note of the legislators who support our positions, such as the two mentioned above. They work on a myriad of issues besides those most important to us. It is in our best interest to actively support any legislative issues advocated by our supporting legislators in order to help build their credibility in the legislature. Watch for the issues that representatives like Williams and Delgobbo advocate; and if you agree with their positions, take an active interest and lend what support you can. It will be recognized and make their support for our issues that much more effective.

Chris Marino reported on the completion of the new ten-year, Statewide Forestry Plan and the need for individuals and groups to support and help see to implementation of this plan. As an example of what can be done, Chris is proposing that the Goshen Conservation Commission recommend adopting the eight vision statements contained within the forestry plan for the town's plan of Conservation and Development.

Jim Fedorich reported on a NW Trout Unlimited initiative to introduce high school students to fly fishing through school programs. NW TU has secured three fly fishing outfits through the National organization and purchased three more outfits through the chapter. They are in the process now of meeting with all high school administrations in Litchfield County to institute programs. During discussion Jim mentioned that this program could be expanded to provide instruction to kids from our various clubs. If interested, just contact Jim Fedorich.

Good of the Organization:

FNRA Western CT. June 2nd at the Fireside Inn.

Adjourn: 9:40PM