

**Northwest CT Sportsman's Council**  
**3 Bare Hill Road, Goshen, CT 06756**  
**nwcsc.org 860 491-3116**

**Council Minutes: July 25, 2006**

Meeting called to order by the Council President at 7:30 PM. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll** of delegates, clubs, officers and guests:

Chris Marino, NVBC; Tony Chinese, Bethlehem WCC; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WCC; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury Fish & Game; Phillip Mauriello, Woodbury/Southbury Rod & Gun; Jim Fedorich, Sharon Fish & Game; Mike Fusco, Harwinton Rod & Gun; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsman's Assoc.; Bob Andryzeck, CT Trapper's Assoc.; Dominic Basile, Chase, Bell City, Metacon; Jake Parmalee, NW Rod & Gun; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington Fish & Game; Craig Nelson, New Preston Rod & Gun.

Officers in attendance: President Craig Nelson, Secretary Chris Marino, Treasurer Tom Accuosti.

Guests include Steven Stirbl and Joel Serota representing Woodbury/Litchfield Hills Foxhounds.

**Minutes** of the June 27, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Dominic Basile raised several issues with the minutes:

- Page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, which begins; (This issue has lingered since that time,). Dominic challenged the accuracy of this statement. The issue was discussed by the delegates. Both the current Council President and the past Council President agreed that this was an accurate statement. No action was taken on this item.
- Page 3, Resolution, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence reads, "Copies of the agenda were sent before the meeting to all delegates who have provided e-mail addresses." Dominic asks that for the sake of accuracy this sentence be changed to read: copies of the agenda were sent two days before the meeting. The Council President asked for discussion. It was agreed that this sentence would be amended to include the date the agenda was sent.
- Page 3, Resolution, last sentence which reads: "Gerry further stated that Robert's Rules backs this finding up with the statement that majorities are limited to a simple majority of the number of voting members present, not the number of organizations they represent." Dominic states that, "the only thing that Mr. Zordan was able to document at last month's meeting was the establishment of a quorum." Discussion by the delegates. The statement as reflected in the minutes was felt to be accurate. There was no change to this item.
- Page 3, Resolution, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: Dominic disputes references to the term, "voting privileges" in regard to Council Delegates. Dominic feels voting on the Council is a right, not a privilege and asked that this be changed. Discussion regarding voting privilege versus rights essentially boiled down to the fact that Article 1, Section IV of Council by-laws provide for the removal of any delegate or member for due cause. The Council President pointed out that we are a private organization operating through our adopted by-laws, and although the total membership of the Council is 6,000 plus, the voting privilege of each club is vested in a single individual from each club which is subject to changes authorized either by the club or the Council. There was no change to this item.

There were no other issues raised with the minutes. The Council President asked for a motion to approve the June minutes with one amendment to Page 3, Resolution, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, to include the date the agenda was e-mailed to the delegates. That sentence to read, "Copies of the agenda were sent on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to all delegates who have provided e-mail addresses." Motion by Mike Fusco to approve the minutes as amended was seconded. Motion passes by a vote of 10 in favor and 2 opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Tom Accuosti reports on financial status.

Chris Marino moves to, "approve the Treasurer's Report." Motion receives a second. No discussion. Approved.

**Correspondence:**

Secretary reports communication from the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance. They are looking into the lawsuit filed against the U.S. F&W Service in an attempt to force listing of the New England Cottontail as an endangered species. USSA informs us that they are investigating the suit and the best way to address it.

Secretary received a call from Paul Rothbart of DEP. Paul called to inform our organization Scott Williamson, who is associated with the Wildlife Management Institute is applying for a \$200,000 grant through the WMI that is targeted for early-successional habitat projects at a club or organizational level. If approved, this grant will provide a 90-10 matching grant for qualifying projects. The Secretary provided a list of all Council clubs and the towns they are located in to DEP as potential candidates for the habitat grants. In light of this possibility, we are urging any of our clubs that have been considering early-successional habitat projects to contact the Wildlife Division for help in developing qualifying plans.

Jason Marshall could not attend this meeting due to a personal commitment. Jason provided information in regard to a meeting he had with DEP Biologist Peter Picone where the subject of land clearing equipment came up. Peter reported to Jason his recent experience in renting a tracked, Skid-steer machine from a Hartford Company and the work he was able to accomplish with a brush clearing attachment on his own property. Peter's experience with the rental firm was good, operational instructions were adequate and once Pete got the feel of operating the machine, he reported that an amazing amount of land can be reclaimed in a relatively short period of time. The cost of renting such a machine is about \$400.00 per day or by the week @ \$2200.00 per. Jason also provided a listing of rental equipment and rates. This is obviously an option that the Council could consider for future habitat projects.

The Secretary received a call on our meeting date from Bill Tetro, the Regional Director of the National Wild Turkey Federation. NWTF is looking into the possibility of starting a Litchfield County Chapter of NWTF. Chris Marino has offered the use of Council HQ for the initial meeting, which will be held on August 8, 2006 at 7 PM. This information has been posted to our web site and all interested sportsmen will be welcome to attend.

#### **Committees:**

**Conservation Advisory Council** to DEP. No report as the Council is on summer break.

#### **Membership:**

Steve Stirbl and Joel Serota were in attendance representing the Woodbury/Litchfield Hills Foxhound organization. This was the second Council meeting attended by these gentlemen. They were provided a club information sheet and Steve reported that they intend to request membership with the NWCSC.

#### **Goshen and Harwinton Fair:**

Mike Fusco states that he has made arrangements for space at Harwinton Fair. We need to show proof of insurance. Chris reported that he has contacted Dave Reising for the Goshen Fair and was told there would be no problem in providing a space near the DEP TIP Trailer. Chris has received nothing in writing as yet.

- Mike Fusco suggests asking for copies of Hook & Bullet for the Fairs. Any clubs that have open memberships are welcome to provide information about their clubs and contacts.
- We need to update our Council Poster listing all Council Clubs.
- Women in Outdoors Poster.
- Bumper stickers and patches ordered.
- NWCSC Hats?
- Volunteers to setup and man the booths.

#### **Junior Hunting Day:**

- Joe Rinaldi has secured the Torrington F&G Club grounds for western division of the statewide JHD on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
- This JHD will be conducted for first time graduates of the CT CE-FS program. We need to make our own arrangements for birds this year.
- Chris to call Sharon Pheasant Farm with a request for birds.
- Seamus Muzzulin reports that the Rocky River Coon Club is going to donate \$100.00 to our JHD.
- Refreshments will be the Council responsibility.
- The skeet range will be open for the hunters.
- Volunteers needed.

## **Old Business:**

Jim Fedorich gave an update on drilling wells at the Burlington Hatchery. It now appears that the State DEP has decided to finance the drilling of the wells this year. Jim reports that the money approved by the Council and NW Chapter of Trout Unlimited for this project will not be needed. Since no allocation has been made for this project, the money will be retained for future Council use.

Dominic Basile addressed voting of delegates and interpretation of voting criteria in regard to last month's Council action. The Council President reaffirms the ruling that "as a delegate, you are one person. It is one person, one vote." The President points out that this matter has been decided by a vote of the delegates, including multiple votes last month. The President observes that this issue was discussed thoroughly last month, it was brought to a vote and a decision was made.

Phil Mauriello addresses the subject of Council attendance. As approved at the June 2006 meeting, we are asking that delegates or their alternates attend at least four Council meetings per year.

- Phil would like a specification of when the year starts.
- Phil would like a change to require attendance to one meeting per quarter. Phil reasons that a delegate who has missed 8 meetings and then comes in for the last 4 is not up to speed on Council matters. Phil thinks that, "if the organizational rep does not attend one meeting per quarter, the organization does not get to vote at all on any positions until then." Phil asked how the delegates feel about that. Seamus Muzzulin points out that the minutes are available for every meeting either directly or through e-mail and usually through the Council web site. It is possible for a delegate to stay relatively well informed.

There was more discussion regarding this topic. Some members thought that a six meeting requirement would be preferable. It was pointed out that regardless of the number of meetings required, provision has been incorporated in the approved policy statement to provide for a letter to any club whose delegate and alternates fail to attend the required minimum number of meetings, stating that their membership to the Council may be in jeopardy of termination without prejudice. If terminated, the club may re-apply for membership at such time as they can actively participate in Council matters.

Seamus observes that the Council would be better served focusing on our usual pro-active sportsman's agenda, and cautions that over-regulation will lead to less involvement, not more.

Chris Marino moves to amend the fourth paragraph, first sentence of the membership policy with a statement to read, "... and attend at least four regular NWCSC meetings per calendar year," Motion receives a second. Motion passes.

## **New Business:**

Discuss banquet preparations.

- Mike Fusco moves to authorize, "to allow Chris Marino the discretion to purchase firearms for the banquet." Motion receives a second. Approved by unanimous vote.
- Discuss reduction in bucket raffles and increase in quality of bucket raffle items.
- Need to offer a good photo promotion of the Council Banquet as early as possible to attract new people.
- Custom Knives mentioned.

Dominic Basile addressed the delegates and read a prepared statement regarding his views of Council policy, Council programs and activity, and his perception of the June 27, 2006 Council meeting and actions taken at that meeting.

Dominic read a letter that he reported is from the Bell City Rifle Club Executive Committee, expressing their views regarding the multiple voting issue and authorizing this club's withdrawal from the Council effective July 19, 2006.

Dominic also made a statement for the Metacon Gun Club. Dominic mentions speaking to Metacon Officers; Don Adams and Dennis Golden. Dominic reports that Metacon is withdrawing from the Council effective immediately. There is no mention of a letter from Metacon authorizing this action. Dominic did not turn in a copy of his prepared statement or any copies of letters from Metacon or Bell City.

In view of the reported withdrawal of Metacon from the Council, the Council Treasurer had some questions regarding the Council sponsored fundraising program for the Metacon legal defense. The Treasurer reports having checks for Metacon and wanted to know if the Council was still going to match them 100%. The Treasurer also pointed out that a matching check has not been written for donations made to date because he has not received a list of donors and amounts from Metacon. Dominic states that he has asked Metacon's Treasurer, Mike Palmer, for this information on two occasions. Dom states that he does not think he will be able to get this information from Metacon, but will ask again.

The Council Treasurer reported having checks from NW Rod & Gun and from Bethlehem WCC. He feels that we should honor our offer to match the donations we have in our possession. Further discussion led to a consensus to continue with the fundraising per our original agreement to the end of 2006. The delegates felt that the legal issues were more important than the current situation. In the event that Metacon does not provide information regarding Council Club donations through 2006 in a timely manner; as previously agreed to by their delegate, the Council felt that it would have no choice other than to revisit the offer to match those donations and make a determination on how best to proceed.

Chris Marino motions that, "the Council accept the withdrawals of Metacon and Bell City as reported by Dominic Basile, with goodwill to both clubs." Mike Fusco seconds. Motion passed without dissent.

Craig Nelson reported on a lawsuit filed by a Georgia Gun Shop owner against Mayor Mike Bloomberg as a result of an illegal sting operation against gun shop owners sponsored by the Mayor.

There being no other business: a motion to adjourn was offered, seconded and approved.

**Adjourn:** Approximately 9:50 PM

Respectfully  
Chris M. Marino  
Secretary, NWCSC