

Northwest CT Sportsman's Council
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nwcsc.org 860 491-3116

Council Minutes: August 22, 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM, by the Council Vice President in the absence of the Council President. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Delegates, Clubs, Officers and Guests:

Elise Mauriello, Olde Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Phillip Mauriello, Woodbury/Southbury R&G; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Dean Fraley, CT Classic Bucks; Dominic Basile, Chase R&P; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen's Assoc.; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem WCC; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WCC; Chris Marino, NVBC.

Officers in attendance: Vice President Jason Marshall; Treasurer Tom Accuosti; Secretary Chris Marino.

Guests: Peter Thomas, Ousatonic F&G; Arthur Palmer, Senior fishing Expedition.

Minutes of the July 25th meeting were reviewed and accepted with one correction to the fourth item under the heading Junior Hunting Day. This item amended to read, "Seamus Muzzulin reported that the Rocky River Coon Club donated \$100.00 to our JHD at the June meeting."

Treasurer's Report:

Account Balances reviewed.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made and seconded. Passed.

Correspondence:

A Council letter drafted by the Secretary and sent to Senator Andrew Roraback was reviewed and discussed. This letter to the Senator basically discussed a Council proposal for new legislation providing for the mandatory disclosure by the seller or his representative of the presence of any organized shooting range or facility within a specified linear distance to any property offered for sale, before the sale of such property.

An e-mail response was received from the Senator expressing interest in the proposal. This led to a meeting which is discussed further under Rapid Response.

A letter was received from the Woodbury Litchfield Hills Foxhounds organization. Discussed under membership.

Chris Marino has submitted several letters to the BNR, Wildlife Division regarding Council ideas and issues. Copies of the letters were available at the meeting.

Committees:

Membership:

A letter from the Woodbury Litchfield Hills Foxhounds requesting membership in the NWCSA was read to the delegates by Jason Marshall. A club information sheet was submitted with the letter. The delegates discussed the application. The Secretary pointed out that two members were listed as primary delegates and Phil as the alternate. Phil explained that the intention was for Joel Serota to be the primary delegate and Steve Stirbl as the first alternate. Phil would supply information to the club if neither of the voting delegates could attend.

A motion was made to, "accept the Woodbury Litchfield Hills Foxhounds organization as a member of the NWCSA." Discussion. Vote. Approved unanimously. A letter will be sent to the club informing them of their acceptance.

Junior Hunting Day: Scheduled for September 24, 2006 at the Torrington Fish & Game Club.

- The Secretary has arranged for the purchase of pheasants with Bob Wilbur at the Sharon Pheasant Farm. We can pick up the birds on the Saturday before the event. As in the past, Bob Wilbur has been very generous in supplying birds for this program. The Council extends its thanks to Bob Wilbur and the Sharon Pheasant Farm.

- Warren Speh is in charge of sending invitations to the graduating students.
- We have one Field Trial Club coming out to work with the juniors. We need several of our club volunteers with well trained pointing dogs to help with this event. Anyone wishing to volunteer dogs and time should contact Chris Marino or Phil Mauriello. We need to know how many dogs and handlers will be available for the day. Please be sure that the volunteers have well trained, pointing dogs that respond to commands for this event. Our Council volunteers will work one field and the field trial club will work the other.
- Council to supply food and refreshments. Also need 12 and 20 gauge ammo and several cases of clays.
- Because we holding this event on Sunday, we will begin shooting at 9 AM. Our volunteers for the event plan to arrive at the club between 7:30 and 8 AM.
- Safety glasses and hearing protection. Tables and tents.
- We need one or two volunteers to demonstrate field dressing and game preparation. Jim Fedorich.

Rapid Response:

Chris reported on a meeting he had with Senator Roraback on Tuesday, August 15th. The primary topic discussed was a Council proposal for a, "Range & Shooting Facility Disclosure Bill" under real estate laws. The Senator was supportive of this concept and suggested that it might involve the clubs filing a simple plot map of their property with the Town Clerk. The Senator offered to have a legislative attorney write up our proposal in bill form for our review and possible presentation to the Legislative Sportsman's Caucus. Senator Roraback feels that this proposal provides a benefit to all involved and should be acceptable. As with all legislative attempts, there are no promises of success, but we do have Senator Roraback's support.

Also discussed at this meeting was the concept of a bill requiring DPS to provide a monthly list of all reported "lost or stolen firearms" to FFL holders. The Senator thought this was a good proposal. (Our delegates feel this list could be posted to a web site for everybody to see. This idea may have merit.)

The Senator brought up the concept of, "No Net Loss of Hunting Lands" and wanted to know how the Council viewed this type of legislation. He was told that we would support this concept. (Same area size, habitat and quality.)

The Senator also asked about conditions and public usage at the Goshen WMA, Chris gave the Senator a report on our view of conditions at the WMA, and noted that there appeared to be little in the way of public use throughout the warm months of the summer.

We had a brief discussion regarding the Senator's support for the "Lost & Stolen Gun Bill" that has been raised in the past two legislative sessions. Senator Roraback continues to support portions of the bill and expressed an interest in discussing this issue with our delegates. Chris has invited the Senator, (with permission of the Council President) to attend our September meeting to discuss this issue and others. The Senator is very interested in hearing our reasons for opposing this bill. We should be prepared to give well reasoned argument on this subject. We will contact the Senator a few weeks before the September meeting to confirm his attendance.

Goshen WMA:

We discussed cleaning up the north and south entrances to the WMA. Phil suggested we build a small pavilion over each picnic table. It was noted that the tables are rotting and falling apart. Several members thought they might be able to get donations of two tables to replace them. Any extra work would have to be approved beforehand by DEP.

Banquet:

We reviewed efforts to date. It was noted that comp tickets should be offered to our accountant Norm Lindroth, and Bob Wilbur of Sharon Pheasant Farm as thanks for their services to the Council. Jason mentioned several ideas that we heard from Rich Tetro of NWTF for raffles etc.

Fairs:

Bumper stickers have arrived. Hats and patches are ordered. We need to update our NWCSC Poster. We still need the Women in the Outdoors Board.

In House Raffle:

We need all tickets and stubs by September 10th. Drawing on the 17th of September. We need tumbler.

Conservation Advisory Council:

There was no meeting in August.

Jim Fedorich asked that we check with DEP at our next meeting about nominating the Burlington Hatchery as an Historic Site. We want to be sure this designation will not be detrimental to the hatchery.

Old Business:

- **Litchfield Hills Chapter NWTF:** Efforts to form a chapter of the turkey federation continue. We expect to hold another meeting in September. The date will be posted to our web site.
- **Metacon Donor & Donation list:** Dominic reports that Metacon's Treasurer was supposed to have given him the list at their last meeting. The Treasurer did not make the meeting but we assume the list is forthcoming. Jason mentioned that the proceeds of the NWCSA Lobster Shoot will be added to the Metacon Shoot revenue that will be held on September 17th.
- Dominic Basile submitted typed copies of statements that were read at the July Council meeting. One is Dominic's statement pertaining to various Council issues. The other two statements were turned in as submissions from the President of Metacon and the Bell City Executive Committee respectively. Both statements authorize the withdrawal of each club from the Council and state the reason for withdrawal. All three statements will be archived with the minutes of the August meeting and will be available for the review of any interested delegate.
- Jim Fedorich asked about progress on development of a budget and membership policy. It was noted that the Council Officers are developing a budget to address finance policy and Membership policy was addressed at the June meeting.

New Business:

- Dominic commented on the proposal discussed with Senator Roraback asking that a list of all reported, lost or stolen guns be provided to FFL holders. Dominic suggested that it would be more beneficial if the list was posted to a web site that all gun owners would have access to. Dominic reasons that illegal sales are more likely to be to private purchasers rather than dealers.
- **State Parks and State Hunting Lands:** Discussion of status of closed state parks. It was noted that several are being reopened at this time. DEP has been rehabilitating these areas. We also noted that Wood Creek in Norfolk has been put back on the stocking list.
- **Senior Citizen's Fishing:** Art Palmer addressed the Council regarding the Senior Fishing Program. Art gave the members a background of this program and the success it has achieved over the past 15 years. Art gave us pictures of the seniors participating in this event. It became very evident that this program means a great deal to the elderly and disabled who participate. Art indicated that last year's event would not have been possible without the donation provided by our Council. The cost of 4 handicap accessible buses was more than the volunteers could afford. As a result, Art invited a representative of the Council to attend this year's event to receive a plaque from the organization. The event will be held in Bridgewater at the Sarah Sanford Pond on September 9th. Council members are invited to attend. Dean Fraley **motions** to, "donate up to \$500.00 to the 2006 Senior Citizens Fishing Outing." Phil seconds. Discussion. **Motion passes.** Art was asked what the donation will be used for. He responded that the money would be used to pay the bus drivers. Tom Accuosti asks that Art provide a receipt to the Council, for our accountant.

Good of the Council:

- **CT River Valley Chapter; Ruffed Grouse Society Banquet:** September 22nd at the Radisson Hotel in Bristol. A motion was made and seconded to, "make our annual RGS organizational sponsor donation of \$250.00 at the Banquet." Discussion. Motion passed. Chris to call Bob Lazarski and reserve a table of ten for the Council. The Council will reserve the table and use tickets held by Chris Marino. Attendees to reimburse the Council.
- **Northwest CT Friends of NRA Banquet:** September 22nd at the Cornucopia in Torrington.

Motion to adjourn: Passed.
Adjourn: 9:40 PM.

Respectfully
 Chris Marino
 Secretary, NWCSC