

Northwest CT Sportsman's Council
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Council Minutes: September 26, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice President Jason Marshall, in the absence of the Council President, at 7:37 pm. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Delegates, Clubs, Officers and Guests:

Elise Mauriello, Olde Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Phil Mauriello, Woodbury/Southbury Rod & Gun; Dean Fraly, CT Classic Bucks; Peter Thomas, Ousatonic F&G; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Dominic Basile, Chase R&P; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Jake Parmalee, NW R&G; Mike O'Connell, UBC; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Chris Marino, NVBC; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem W/L CC; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem W/L CC; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen.

Officers present: Vice President Jason Marshall; Treasurer, Tom Accuosti, and Secretary Chris Marino.

Guest for the evening, State Senator and Co-Chair of the Legislative Sportsman's Caucus, Andrew Roraback.

Minutes of August meeting were distributed and reviewed. Mike Fusco moves to, "accept the August Minutes." Motion seconded. Passed.

Financial Report:

Tom gave account balances and reported depositing approximately \$1500.00 in M1A revenue in the CD.

Phil Mauriello moves to, "accept the Treasurer's Report." Motion seconded. Passed.

Correspondence: None.

Membership: A vote was taken at the August meeting to accept the Woodbury/Litchfield Foxhounds organization into the Council.

David Coons has updated the Council web site, adding links where appropriate and updating member list. We still need to verify status of Second Amendment Sisters and Dutchess County M/L. Total clubs to date: 28.

The regular agenda was suspended at this point with the arrival of Senator Roraback. The next hour was devoted to discussion of Sportsman's issues with the Senator.

Senator Roraback:

The secretary reviewed our previous contact and meeting with the Senator regarding a proposal for legislative action for range and shooting facility protection, in the form of real estate disclosure, and discussion regarding the "Lost & Stolen Bill" as presented in the two previous legislative sessions. Discussed was a DPS response to an inquiry by the Senator regarding how lost and stolen firearms information is handled by that agency. The response received was somewhat confusing and did not demonstrate a pro-active use of the information gathered. The Senator stated that, "he sees no reason why lost and stolen information cannot be shared with licensed firearms dealers." The Council sees this as an effort to employ this resource to help identify and recover firearms, and as a way to limit the potential sale of illegal firearms to legitimate dealers.

Andrew had three items that he wished to discuss. He led off with a discussion of the Sunday Hunting Bill that almost passed last session, and observed that the momentum for this bill's passage is increasing, especially in the Southeast corner of the State. It was held up by one legislator last year, and will be back again this year.

The Senator then addressed our concept for a, "Real Estate Disclosure Requirement" pertaining to property transactions within a specified distance of any organized facility where shooting or hunting occurs. The Senator observed that this provision would be of benefit to all parties involved including the clubs, the prospective property purchaser and the sellers and representatives of the sellers.

The third item brought up by the Senator was the "Lost & Stolen Guns Bill." This bill failed in the past two legislative sessions; however, Senator Roraback assures us that it will be back next session. The Senator informed us that the co-chairmen of the Legislative Sportsman's Caucus include himself as the Republican chairman and Senator

Eileen Dailey as the Democrat chairman. Both chairmen agree that this issue will be back, and both think that rational people from either spectrum of the gun control issue should be able to sit in a room and discuss the reality of this issue and how to deal with it.

Senator Roraback distributed information to our delegates which included: a letter to the Senator from the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, a BATF summary of investigations and trafficked firearms, a fact sheet from the Johns Hopkins, Center for Gun Policy and Research and a copy of the 2006 Lost and Stolen Guns Bill, LCO 4190.

Senator Roraback explained his position regarding the L&S Gun Bill. He was in basic support of section 502, mandatory reporting of L&S guns, and did not support sections 501, and 503. We discussed the bill and its implications with the Senator. The Senator is relying heavily on information provided by the Chief State's Attorney's office and Dept. of Homeland Safety. Senator Roraback ended his statement with the statement that this issue will be back before the legislature next year and that he wants our people at the table to help figure out what we need to do.

Also brought out by our delegates at this meeting were issues involving the State Police Gun Trafficking Task Force, primarily of refunding this unit which was very successful in the first few years of its existence. This unit has not been funded for several years and for all intent is dormant. One suggestion to refund this unit involved utilizing the proceeds from the sale of confiscated firearms. These firearms are now a financial burden to the state in that most of them are destroyed at taxpayer expense. The authorization to sell these firearms exists in law and we see no reason not to return them to legal ownership. We also discussed the satellite pistol permit renewal system and long delays being experienced by permit holders. No net loss policy of hunting land also discussed.

The Senator closed this session by making it clear that information we provided was helpful and that both co chairs of the Sportsman's Caucus want us at the table when these issues are discussed again. We thanked the Senator for taking the time to attend this Council meeting and for his candor in discussing the issues that affect us all.

Return to our regular agenda.

Committees:

Banquet:

Discussed merchandise gathered to date. Jason informed us that the Council had won a Charles Daly shotgun at the CT River Ruffed Grouse Banquet. This gun will be added to our banquet list. Jason also bought two prints, a decoy and a grouse sculpture at the RGS banquet. Mike Fusco moves to, "purchase all four items from Jason for our banquet." Clyde seconds. Discussion. Motion approved. Jason will turn in his receipts to Tom Accuosti for reimbursement.

Mike suggests having memberships available to various sporting and conservation organizations.

Jim Fairchild donates a new 16' Old Town Canoe. Jason to provide paddles. Mike offers a 17 cal Marlin.

Banquet date set at Feb 23, 2007.

Mike Fusco to talk to Cold Brook Hunts about boar hunt donation.

In-House Raffle:

First prize to Cliff Slater, second to Dom Basile, third to Germane Lemnue.

Dom donates pheasant hunt back to banquet. We need to talk to Plumb Hill as this is a carry over from the previous year. It was suggested that we use the hunt as a special table sponsor raffle.

Conservation Advisory Council:

Jason and Chris make report. New Law Enforcement Rep assigned for DEP. Sgt. Jim Wolfe replaces Tom Lewoc. Jim noted a reduction in the number of TIP calls received by DEP. He stressed the importance of this program to law enforcement and urges sportsmen to use the TIP line when appropriate.

BNR reports forestry and wildlife divisions are beginning efforts to integrate management programs. The focus will be on early successional habitat.

Discussion of Trophy Lake closure proposal by DEP. This issue is being discussed at both CAC and FAC meetings. We are told that if there is strong sportsman opposition to the proposal, DEP will drop it from the regs package.

Discuss unintended consequences of rehabilitating stripped bass stocks to the detriment of prey species. Discuss disabled sportsman issue. How can the state provide special hunting areas for their use? Bob Crook to develop proposal. Specific problem on 500 acre Aquarion property that has been managed for handicapped hunters.

George Finch requested DEP revisit NSSF funding for promoting hunting. Ed Parker replied that he needs to hear from sportsmen on this issue.

Old Business:

Jason reported on the 2006 Western Division, Junior Hunt Day. We hosted 27 youths at Torrington F&G. The event went well and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Our thanks once again to the Torrington Fish & Game, which has been so generous in allowing the use of its facility for the third year, to hold this event. No information regarding this JHD was promulgated by DEP. One CO; Keith Snyder, showed up after hearing about the event from one of our volunteers.

We had 22 youth males, 5 youth female attend. 8 NWCSC members were on hand, 4 Torrington F&G members, 4 CE/FS instructors, 8 members American Hunting Dog Club and 4 Harwinton R&G members with their dogs. Our thanks to all who helped to make this event a success, including Bob Wilbur of Sharon Pheasant Farm who supplied the birds.

Senior Fishing Trip:

Jason reported on SFD which he attended to receive an award for the Council. He was impressed by the number of volunteers who turn out to make this event a success. Jason feels that our support is worthwhile.

Metacon:

Dom submits a list of NWCSC club donations to date. Jason reports on Metacon shoot held at NWCSA which raised at least \$500.00. It was also mentioned that Fairfield R&G is planning to hold a similar event to benefit Metacon.

New Business:

Phil mentions that the CCS banquet is being held October 1st, and wondered who was attending for the Council. Jim Bower, Dom, Phil and Elise will attend. It was noted that Council supports CCS with a direct donation each year. We should determine if we want to make an additional donation.

Good of the Council:

Discuss the Whitetail Solutions group. Tom mentioned an article appearing in the Waterbury paper regarding this group.

Discuss deer baiting in southern CT. It was pointed out that NY has outlawed baiting entirely because of possible CWD transmission. Mike reports that the UBC is divided on this issue.

Motion to adjourn. Approved.
Adjourn at 10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Chris Marino
Secretary, NWCSC