

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

Council Minutes: June 26, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by Council President Craig Nelson. All rise for Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Delegates, Clubs, Officers and Guests:

Elise Mauriello, Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Phil Mauriello, Woodbury/ Southbury R&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Chris Marino, NVBC; Tony Chianese, BWCC; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WWCC; Jake Parmalee, NW CT R&G; Dominic Basile, Chase R&P; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Tom Small, Ratlum F&G.

Officers in attendance: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the May 22, 2007 meeting were e-mailed to delegates. Copies available at meeting. Jason Marshall **motions** to, "accept the minutes" Mike Fusco seconds. Discussion. Motion approved. Agendas for the June meeting were also e-mailed and provided at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported all account balances. Jim Fedorich **motions** to, "accept the Treasurer's Report." Second by Joe Rinaldi. Discussion. Motion approved.

Fiscal Responsibility:

Jim Fedorich motions to, "Form a financial committee composed of Joe Rinaldi, Jason Marshall and the Council Treasurer." Clyde Breakell seconds. Discussion. It was decided to set this motion aside until the budget proposal was dealt with.

Chris presented a proposed budget to finish out the 2007 fiscal year, and to serve as a template for the Board's possible use in crafting annual budgets in the future. Treasurer Tom Accuosti gathered the budget information. Chris and Tom used our finance program accounts and figures to come up with the proposal, copies of which were distributed to the delegates.

A recommendation to form a finance committee composed of the Treasurer as Chairman and all officers of the Council is contained in the budget proposal.

The budget proposal was thoroughly discussed. **Phil Mauriello motions** to, "add a budget item for legislative expenses under the "Programs" category funded for \$1000.00." Second by Tom Accuosti. Discussion. Motion approved. Jason points out that there are three known lobby groups acting on sportsman's behalf in CT. They are Bob Crook, NSSF, and the NRA. TU also has a lobbyist representing their organization.

Jason Marshall motions to, "accept the proposed budget as presented with the addition of \$1000-allocated to new budget item entitled, "Legislative Expense" under the Program Item." Second by Seamus Muzzulin. Discussion. Motion approved. Budget for the balance of 2007 adopted and added to the record of the June minutes as an addendum.

We then returned to Jim's motion to form a finance committee: Jim offered to **withdraw his motion** from consideration. Clyde agrees to withdraw his second. Jim offers a **new motion** to, "authorize formation of a finance committee as proposed in the 2007 budget proposal. This committee to consist of the acting Treasurer as Chairman and all Council Officers as members." Clyde Breakell seconds. Discussion. Motion approved.

The Finance Committee will conduct its business during regular B.O.D. meetings. The B.O.D. meets at 7:PM on the regularly scheduled monthly Council meeting dates, as needed to conduct business.

The final item brought up for discussion under Fiscal Responsibility was a concept proposal offered by Chris Marino to establish a, "long term objective" for the Council and our fund-raising efforts that will benefit all sportsmen in Northwest CT and the State.

Chris suggests that the Council consider establishing a long-term goal of creating a, "Northwest CT Multiple-Use Trust Fund" to benefit fish, wildlife, habitat and sportsmen's interests in Northwest Connecticut utilizing the capitol accruing in our investment portfolio as the basis of creating the fund: That we consider adding, as an annual financial goal additional deposits of surplus Council funds to these accounts. The investment portfolio would remain the property of the Council and proceeds from the portfolio would be available for

Council use until such time as the Council Delegates vote to authorize transfer of the trust fund or the Council is dissolved.

Ultimately, establishment of this Fund would serve as a perpetual legacy of our Council to sportsman and conservation interests in NW CT. Secondly; the Fund would be established to form a core basis and mechanism for other individuals, clubs, businesses/corporations and philanthropic organizations who believe in the concept of multiple use conservation and our sportsman's heritage to emulate and/or make additional donations in support of the traditional conservation concepts sportsmen espouse.

Our vision for establishment of this Fund is centered on the concept of core fund investments, the principle of which cannot be accessed. On an annual basis, a board of directors would meet to manage the Fund, and allocate earnings of the core Fund to projects deemed appropriate by the board. Required would be a provision that matching grants and funding would be sought whenever possible.

Several ideas for implementing the trust fund were discussed at the meeting. Delegates were asked to consider the proposal and bring it up at their various meetings to get some feedback for the Council from sportsmen. This proposal will be considered as a work in progress and discussed again at future Council meetings.

Correspondence:

Copy of press release of the Council donation to the NW CT Claybusters youth program was received.
Copy of the Coverts Project annual report was reviewed. Two of our members were mentioned.
Copy of the Legislative Program Review of Environmental Conservation Police received and reviewed.

Committees:

Nominating Committee:

The Council President noted that we are late in forming the nominating committee and holding elections. An option to hold elections at the present meeting or form a committee and hold elections in July was presented to the delegates.

Phil Mauriello **motions** to, "nominate the current slate of officers for re-election." Second by Tom Accuosti. President calls for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. President closes nominations. **Motion approved.** Phil Mauriello **motions** to, "have the Secretary cast one ballot to elect the nominated candidates for officer's positions." Chris Marino seconds. **Motion approved.** Secretary casts one ballot for the current slate of officers.

Phil Mauriello **motions** to, "nominate Mike Fusco for re-election as a member of the board of directors." Second by Jason Marshall. Call for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. Nominations closed. **Motion approved.** Phil Mauriello **motions** to, "have the Secretary cast one vote to re-elect Mike Fusco to the Board of Directors." Second by Jason Marshall. **Motion approved.** Secretary casts one vote to elect Mike Fusco to a two-year term on the Board.

All votes were unanimous. The President closed elections.

Membership:

The Council president read a letter from the Bell City Rifle Club's acting President, stating that the Bell City Executive Committee voted unanimously to seek reinstatement of Bell City Rifle Club as a member of the Council.

Jim Fedorich motions to, "accept Bell City Rifle Club as a member club of the NWCSC." Second by Chris Marino. Discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

Rapid Response:

The President noted that two bills affecting firearms owners and sportsmen passed during the current legislative session. We opposed the Lost & Stolen Gun Bill that was passed and signed into law by Governor Rell.

We supported the Range Disclosure Bill to protect shooting facilities, which also passed. Our Council initiated this bill through discussions with Senator Roraback, who introduced the bill into the legislature and made every effort to see it pass throughout a long and busy legislative session. Senator Roraback in particular, and our other legislative supporters deserve our thanks for passing this bill. Tom Accuosti suggests contacting the NRA to inform them of this bill and how it came about. All clubs should register with their town clerks office to take advantage of this protection.

It is also reported that funding to enhance the Gun Trafficking Task Force of DPS is in the current budget bill. We will have to follow progress on this item.

We need to schedule additional meetings with area legislators to prepare for the next legislative session. One item we can propose is a requirement that DPS keep records and statistics regarding the Lost & Stolen Gun Bill in order that the public may judge the effectiveness of this law on criminal activity.

We should also proceed with issues such as providing CT Firearms dealers with lists of lost & stolen guns and “No Net Loss of Hunting Lands.”

Conservation Advisory Council”

Jason reported on the June CAC meeting.

- Stocking of white catfish as part of the Urban Fishing Program.
- Report of Bass Tournament violation on Candlewood by a New Jersey Club. (More enforcement.)
- Four moose/vehicle collisions reported so far in 2007.
- Bear management strategy being developed.
- The Regulations Review Committee rejected dog leash regulation for WMAs without prejudice.
- Automated licensing program is still in process.
- Pheasant program is being reviewed by DEP for changes to enhance the program. Changes may include the possibility of additional tag purchases.
- Mr. Parker to look into NSSF grants and report back to CAC.
- TIP program bill did not pass in this year’s legislative session.

Old Business:

Chris Marino reported that invitations were extended to DEP Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone and DEP Fisheries Biologist Timothy Barry to act as advisors to the Council on matters of wildlife, fisheries and conservation projects. The Council at the May meeting authorized the invitations. We are pleased that both of these gentlemen have accepted our invitation. We hope to see each advisor attend several Council meetings per year with updates regarding DEP initiatives and direction, as well as advice as to how best we can act, (as an organization) in support of sportsmen and conservation.

We discussed the possible development of a comprehensive list of all sportsmen’s clubs in CT. We need to contact Warren Speh and DEP to begin this effort. We also discussed development of a voting list for legislation that is significant to sportsmen. Seamus Muzzulin volunteered to help with this effort. Most of the legislation that is of concern can be found on the CCS web site and information from the CT legislative records can be accessed from the CCS site.

New Business:

Jim Fedorich related to the group that Tom Delekta of Fall Mountain Sports recently suffered a heart attack and had to undergo bypass surgery. A fund-raiser dinner is being planned to benefit Tom and we hope to have more information on the particulars by our next meeting.

Tom Accuosti reported that he had not paid a phone for several months. The reason for this is that the phone bills for the Council have been merged with Chris Marino’s business phone service; consequently Chris has been paying the entire bill. Phil Mauriello **motions** to, “pay Chris Marino the customary amount of our previous phone bills, (typically \$60.00 per month)” Second by Joe Rinaldi. Discussion. **Motion approved.**

Clyde Breakell requests that Board meetings be scheduled 15 to 30 minutes before the regular meetings. We need to prioritize board business and begin a 2008 budget proposal. This was agreeable.

Tony Chinese asked how regulations for boating are changed on CT lakes. Tony mentioned West Hill Pond as an example of new regs being posted for horsepower restriction dates that are different than what is printed in the field guides or listed on the DEP web site. Chris to check this out.

Jason Marshall Motions to, “adjourn”. Motion receives a second. Approved.

Adjourn: 9:20 PM
Respectfully Submitted
Chris M. Marino
Secretary: NWCSC