

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

Council Minutes: September 25, 2007

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

Roll of Delegates, Clubs, Officers and Guests:

Phil Mauriello, Woodbury/ Southbury R&G; Elise Mauriello, Olde Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Chris Marino, NVBC; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Edward Cormiel, Bell City Rifle Club; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem F&G; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem F&G; Jake Parmalee, NW R&G.

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

Secretary's Report:

Minutes for the August 28, 2007 meeting were e-mailed to delegates. Copies were available at the meeting. Jim Fedorich **motions** to, "accept the minutes as delivered" Motion receives a second. Discussion. **Motion approved.** Agendas for the September 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 Mike Fusco. Discussion. **Motion approved.**

Correspondence:

- Investment statements received.
- Letter received from Senator Roraback in response to our September 7th meeting. The letter was to inform the Council of two requests for information to the Office of Legislative Research in response to issues raised at the meeting: 1, Request for information regarding states that have adopted "No Net Loss Laws" pertaining to hunting lands, which ensure public access for hunting and fishing are not diminished. 2, Request for research of whether CT DPS and/ or Municipal Police Departments regularly provide licensed CT Firearms Dealers with a list of lost or stolen guns that have been reported to them. If they do not provide this information, could the General Assembly pass a law requiring them to do so?
- Letter sent to Senator Roraback thanking him for our September 7th meeting and his consideration of our issues.
- E-mail received from Mark Fowler containing a list and schedule for all the Junior Hunters who have signed up for our October 7th JHD. It appears that we have 41 juniors signed up for the day.

Committees:

Junior Hunting Day:

Tom reports that we have kids signed up from all over the state.

Jim Fedorich, Tom Accuosti and Jerry Ciarcia will head up the Council volunteers.

Jason & Chris to get gear together and provide a list of what will be needed.

Chris to call Sharon Pheasant Farm and order 80 birds. Seamus to pick up Saturday afternoon.

Tim Barry will in charge of CE-FS instructors.

Rapid Response:

Chris Marino reported on his September 7th meeting with Senator Roraback. Topics covered included efforts to include sportsman's clubs as eligible recipients of open space funding for land purchases if they can qualify under current guidelines, and discuss possible legislative action to include the clubs if it is determined that they do not qualify under present guidelines.

We also discussed the possibility of NWCSC setting up a habitat endowment fund and introduction of a CT Sportsman's Heritage bill, which would include a "no net loss of access or sporting lands" concept.

In regard to the lost and stolen gun bill passed in the last session, we discussed the issue of the DPS providing information regarding all reported lost and stolen firearms to licensed dealers as a way to close this potential outlet for sales of illegal firearms and to help identify those individuals trafficking in illegal firearms.

We also discussed the DEP proposed dog regulations on State WMA's and the Marine Fisheries Bill.

Senator Roraback was invited to a tour of the land management area at NWCSA, which is scheduled to take place on November 3rd as a Coverts Tour in cooperation with UCONN Ext Service and DEP. All legislators and club members are invited to attend this walking tour.

Banquet:

Chris reported on a meeting with Wayne Lawrence of Big Boar Lodge in Homer NY. Mr. Lawrence has offered a boar hunt for the banquet and will probably attend.

We still need donations for the next banquet, which is coming up in four months. We ask all delegates to bring this up at their clubs. Joe reports that Orvis in Sandanona is going to donate shooting instruction again this year. Chris points out again that this Council is making things happen in CT, and it is not inappropriate to ask the clubs to help out with the banquet. Ed Cormiel suggests using the club web sites and e-mails to get word of the banquet out our members. Ed needs a contact name for each member club to develop an email list to promote the banquet. We also need to get posters and tickets out in a timely manner.

Conservation Advisory Council:

Jason Marshall reported on the September CAC meeting.

- Chris Marino presented information and a photo record of conditions at the John Minetto State Park to Bureau Chief Edward Parker. We asked that a dialog be opened to address the deplorable condition of this park and a general discussion of possible alternatives followed. Mr. Parker indicated that this information would receive due consideration by the agency. We hope to take a broad look at the possibilities for this park with an emphasis on sporting interests.
- The Aldo Leopold WMA in Southbury is open to small game, turkey and archery deer hunting. The area consists of about 545 acres. Maps are available from DEP. No pheasant stocking.
- Auto licensing should be in place by 2008. All licenses and tags, except pheasant tags will be available.
- It was reported that 15,857 pheasants will be stocked on state land in 2007. This figure is derived from the sale of 6001 sets of pheasant tags purchased in 2006. Sales continue to decline and the agency is looking for suggestions from sportsmen to help re-invigorate the pheasant program. If there is something you would like to see change, contact the Wildlife Division.
- No Day Permits will be required in 2007 for the Goshen WMA. Also, there will be no birds stocked during the week of November 12th, which includes the opening of the statewide firearms deer season.
- Stocking program needs hunter input and eyewitness reports of birds flying off property upon release. It was suggested that hunters take a digital camera or camcorder with them and try to get photos of the actual liberation and where the birds fly.

Old Business:

- CCS Awards banquet coming up October 14th. It was found that many of our delegates will be away on the date of this banquet. We did not have enough people to purchase a table. We did make our annual donation to CCS.
- Craig Nelson has enquired with the State Ethics Committee regarding our ability to make political donations. Craig reports that he was informed that we cannot make political donations.
- Mike and Chris reported on the NW FNRA banquet. The event was considered better than usual.
- Craig reported on the Senior Fishing Event and passed pictures taken at the event around for viewing. It was obvious from the pictures that the participants really enjoy this activity and appreciate the help.

New Business:

- Mike Fusco enquired about a "Handgun Hunting" option to our hunting seasons. A regulation proposal to include handguns for deer hunting has been submitted by the Council. Mike was encouraged to pursue this issue and develop statistics and info to support this regulation change.

Good of the Organization:

Rocky River Coon Club annual clambake to be held September 30th.

Clyde Breakell moves to adjourn. Jason seconds. Motion approved.

Adjourn at 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Chris M. Marino

Secretary: NWCSC