

Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC
3 Bare Hill Road,
Goshen, CT 06756

nwcsc.org
Phone: (860) 491-4867

Council Report: October 26, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:40PM by Council President. All rise for Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Clubs, Delegates and Officers:

Torrington Fish & Game Assoc:	Joe Rinaldi	Foothill's Sportsmen:	Clyde Breakell
NWCSC:	Pete Gray, Jason Marshal	Goshen Sportsmen Assoc:	Tom Accousti, Jim Upton
Waterbury Fish&Game:	Jerry Ciarcia	Woodbury/ Southbury Rod & Gun:	Phil Mauriello
Olde Newgate Coon Club:	Elise Mauriello	CT Classic Bucks:	Dean Fraley
New Preston Rod & Gun Club:	Craig Nelson	NVBC:	Chris Marino
Sharon Fish & Game:	Jim Fedorich	NW Chapter, Trout Unlimited:	Jim Bower
All officers in attendance.			

Council Report for September: Reviewed and accepted. Posted to web site.

Financial Report: Reviewed and accepted.

Correspondence : Letter of thanks received for Council donation to the Maine Sportsmen's Alliance.
Letter received from RGS acknowledging our Sponsor Membership.

Committees:

ATV Raffle: Attention to upcoming raffle drawing October 31st. We need to collect all outstanding tickets and stubs. We need people to be present at the drawing to witness the event. Refreshments will be available. Jason and Chris to account for all tickets and stubs. Pictures and report will be posted to the web site.

Banquet: Motion made by Jason Marshall, "to purchase Bow Tech Mighty Mite Compound Bow from Dean Fraley at \$285.00, with return privilege if it doesn't go at banquet." Approved. Jim Fedorich to check with Orvis for fishing outfit. We need to look into printing tickets early this year. Tom Accousti volunteers to create mail list database from last year's ticket stubs. Use NRA idea of raffle tickets for ordinary door prizes with one gun as major door prize.

CAC: Minutes of October meeting posted to web site.

Old Business:

Burlington Trout Hatchery Update:

Work parties are planned during the next few weekends. We will e-mail delegates with schedules. Framing has been completed. All that remains is to install the fence and netting.

Report on Northwest FNRA Banquet.

Report on Coalition of CT Sportsmen Awards Banquet.

Lake Waramaug::

Craig furnished article on formation of a boat launch committee for the lake. No word from the AG office regarding our letter as yet. Jason reports that CCS is getting involved in the lake agreement beginning this legislative session. General discussion of possible options followed.

Steep Rock Land Trust was brought up for discussion by Dean Fraley. Dean reviewed his efforts as a member of Steep Rock's, "Hunting Committee" to negotiate a reasonable agreement for some type of hunting program on a portion of Steep Rock land holdings. Dean reported on initial progress in coming to terms with the association. However, the association later declined to enter into a hunting agreement stating that their national insurance carrier would not insure the association for any form of hunting activity. The carrier stated that they would insure only for passive recreation uses. It was noted that the state of CT defines hunting as a passive recreational use. Steep Rock's carrier also said the association could not accept insurance riders to cover hunting on their property without risking the loss of their primary coverage. Dean has obtained such a rider, naming Steep Rock

Association as the beneficiary, and has sent a copy of the rider to the organization. They are not happy with Dean for pursuing this avenue. So far, Dean has heard nothing about the primary carrier dropping Steep Rock. It would be hard to believe that even if the hunting prohibition is true with the current policy, that another insurance company could not be found to cover all activity including hunting. It seems apparent that this is nothing more than an excuse to deny hunting.

New Business:

Discuss **snowshoe hare** stocking possibilities. It was suggested that we enquire of DEP regarding a permit to purchase and stock hare obtained from Canada. Chris and Jason to look into this possibility and any requirements DEP might impose. This will constitute a different approach to this issue than our previous attempts in recent years to obtain hare from New England. It is hoped that we can settle on requirements with DEP and find a supplier in Canada and thus bypass the bureaucratic problems we have run into in dealing with several state agencies. We would prefer to obtain hare taken from areas of New England with a more similar habitat and climate, but so far this has not worked out due partially to state bureaucratic requirements and partially to reluctance on the part of our DEP to get involved with such a program.

Jim Fedorich reported on **Kokanee Salmon** being held at the Burlington Hatchery for spawning purposes. Fisheries personnel recently netted approximately 200 adult salmon from West Hill Pond. They average 18-20" in length and are very impressive fish. West Hill is one of the last remaining Kokanee fisheries in the state.

Jim also reported the results of the Farmington River Shocking program conducted in early October. Approximately 200 Large **Brown Trout** in the 20-25" range were taken. These fish were previously marked for identification and all had been in the river for at least four years. The fisheries division is attempting to cultivate a strain of Browns that will form the nucleus of a resident Farmington River population in the future. Some natural spawning is now occurring in the Farmington, and the addition of stock developed from these browns will increase natural reproduction. The West Hill Kokanee and Farmington River Browns are two successes of the fisheries division that we can all enjoy and take pride in.

Jason reported that the State of Maine has closed the season on **Cottontail Rabbit** hunting this year. A Maine Game Warden he spoke to while on a hunting trip this month reported that the season was closed due to pending action by the F&W Service on a petition to list the New England Cottontail as a threatened or endangered species. Maine has a declining habitat suitable for the cottontail; they exist mostly in the southern region of the state. We need to be aware of actions like this. It would be a shame to see rabbit hunting closed in CT. We hope that the ongoing Cottontail Survey being conducted by the wildlife division will protect our state from such drastic actions if and when the Federal Government decides to act on this petition.

Good of the Council:

Adjourn: 8:50PM