



## Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603  
[www.dutchessfishandgame.org](http://www.dutchessfishandgame.org)

*The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932*

### **March 14, 2019 Regular Delegates Meeting**

Madison's Pizza Cafe, Pleasant Valley, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:34 PM by President Chris Villa.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bernie Walker.

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel who defend our freedom and for former Federation members.

Roll Call: 28 people were in attendance, representing 23 clubs.

#### **Guests**

DEC Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) Deo Reed spoke about the following:

- The DEC will have a booth at the upcoming Sportsmens Show in Rockland County.
- ECO Hodor is tentatively planning to retire next month.
- Plans are to start a new ECO Academy in May.
- ECO Reed is a scout leader and is seeking some projects for the scouts to put in some volunteer time on conservation related activities.
- There may be a little more ECO time spent at the old Tappan Zee bridge deconstruction, but it is almost done.

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on Feb. 14, 2019 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Bernie Walker. All-in-Favor (AIF)

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 25, 2019 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Bernie Walker. AIF

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Bernie Walker. AIF

#### **Communications**

Secretary Tom Holsopple passed along a big thank-you from Jackie Emslie for all of the thoughts, kind words, and notes for the recent passing of her father. Scott Emslie reiterated his and Jackie's appreciation.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Hunters Helping the Hungry**

Penny Hickman reported that 6640 pounds of game meat has been distributed so far this program year. Bill Connors added that at a calculation of 4 meals per pound, the program has provided around 500,000 meals since its inception in the early to mid 1990's. That is something of which this organization can and should be proud.

## Fish

Committee chairman Ken Rose provided the schedule for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of trout stockings in the county:

Sprout Creek - March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Ten Mile River, Webutuk Creek, Swap River – March 25<sup>th</sup>

Roeliff Jansen Kill, Crum Elbow Creek, Sawkill Creek– March 29<sup>th</sup>

Wappingers Creek – April 5<sup>th</sup>

Anthony Pittore stated that the annual Family Fishing Day will be held on Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> at Overlook Park in Lagrange. All are welcome to come help and participate.

## Conservation Education

Scott Emslie stated that there is not much new to report. The camps are pretty much booked at this time and enrollments are probably closed by now. If any of the kids or their parents did not respond quickly enough when enrolling online, they would go on a waiting list.

## Publicity/Promotions

Bill Conners stated that plans are to produce Kids Activity booklets again this year for the Fair booth. There will probably be a new cover and some new page content. The Board will discuss if we should entertain selling ads for the booklet.

## Legislation

Bill Conners reported that President Trump signed the Natural Resources Management Act bill which among other things, facilitates the expansion and enhancement of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities on federal public lands. It would force allowing those activities unless specifically closed for cause. So it is a very pro-hunting bill.

At the New York State level, an Assembly bill was introduced once again to close down the pheasant farm and end distribution and propagation of pheasants by the state.

## Other Conservation Related News

- The black bear harvest last season was way down in the state. There were 13-14 taken in Dutchess County.
- Somehow, the Conservation Fund will likely have about an \$8M surplus this year. But that will probably be short-lived, so CFAB is still looking for ways to keep buffering the fund.
- CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) has now been found in deer herds in 7 more states. No cases have been found in NYS since its eradication years ago. Some Pennsylvania hunter groups have been disclaiming the prion-related cause of the disease, but have provided no scientific evidence to support that opinion. There is still no evidence that it can be transmitted to humans.
- The FWMB has been promoting a new representative for CFAB, but the Democrat-controlled legislative caucus has been delaying the appointment, which is very unfortunate given the viability of the candidate.
- Bill Conners reported that Dick's Sporting Goods announced that they will stop selling all firearms in 125 stores. Bill recommended that sportsmen and sportswomen stop purchasing any goods from them.

## New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners lamented some of the current leadership attitudes in the Council, which prevents it from being the very effective advocate organization for conservation issues that it should be.

Chris Villa noted that Bill was nominated and inducted into the NY Outdoor Hall of Fame. The induction dinner will be held upstate in April.

## Unfinished (Old) Business

None reported.

### **New Business**

President Chris Villa stated that our Federation is one of the better ones in the state and asked that delegates help continue that legacy by bringing new people and youth to meetings to show them what this organization is all about. This could foster more people getting involved.

Chris also announced that the next meeting will be held at Jason Patricks Restaurant on Rt.44, which is newly opened by the owners of Madison's Café.

Address: 1112 Dutchess Turnpike (Rt. 44), Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

### **Announcements**

Jack Evans handed out a flyer about a Civil War era Competition Shooting organization.

Information was introduced about a new web site that highlights the status of the current court case involving the SAFE Act along with other state legislative issues. The site is: [www.2awny.com](http://www.2awny.com)

Scott Emslie reminded the assembly that the Mid-Hudson Friends of NRA Banquet is just around the corner on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Seats are selling out quickly, so contact Scott if you want a ticket. Also, there are still opportunities to underwrite prizes. Many clubs have already done so, including the Federation itself.

The Manchester Hunt Club Game Dinner will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion in Arlington.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Roy Palinkas.

Next meeting date: April 11<sup>th</sup> (at Jason Patricks Restaurant).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Holsopple,  
Secretary