



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
www.dutchessfishandgame.org

The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932

March 10, 2022 Regular Delegates Meeting

Elks Lodge, Poughkeepsie, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:46 PM by President Anthony Pittore

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Fiumarello.

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel, first responders, and past Federation members, and a hope that peace will come to those suffering in the Ukraine.

Roll Call: 31 people were in attendance, representing 21 clubs.

Guests

Dutchess County Undersheriff and Acting Sheriff Kirk Imperati, spoke about the following:

- His career in the sheriff's dept as a road deputy, involvement with the DARE and SRO programs, training programs, detective, and 14 years in the Undersheriff position.
- The dept has 450 employees with a \$55 million budget.
- His concerns about the SAFE Act and bail reform.
- Police modernization efforts, about which the dept is already 95% compliant.
- The difficulty with recruiting quality individuals as new officers.
- The new justice facility which came in under budget.
- He is very concerned with firearms safety, so he would like to see a safety course requirement implemented for the pistol permit process.
- His philosophy of the dept being adaptable to change with current times, but hold onto the core values that deceased former Sheriff Butch Anderson instilled in the dept.
- He is running for election this fall.

Anthony Pittore recognized **Judy Coons**, past delegate from Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club, wife of deceased past President Harold Coons, and a very active participant in Federation programs in the past. Judy stated that she thought that deceased past Director Penny Hickman would be very proud of how the Federation has continued on and progressed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yasiejko. All-in-favor (AIF).

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on February 10, 2022 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yasiejko. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on February 28, 2022 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yaszko. AIF

Committee Reports

Annual Dinner

Due to the cancellation of the Annual Dinner this year, and the upcoming important mid-term elections this fall, President Anthony Pittore invited discussion on whether we should have an event in the Spring or Summer, given that we will still plan to hold the Annual Dinner as usual next year. Out of the discussion, 4 options were considered:

1. A formal dinner, just like the Annual Dinner, with the usual guests invited.
2. A casual event, like maybe a BBQ, inviting legislators and candidates as guests.
3. A special agenda meeting in place of a regular delegates meeting, inviting legislators and candidates as guests.
4. Do nothing and wait for the next Annual Dinner in January 2023.

A motion was made by Ken Foster to proceed with looking into the viability (e.g. cost, location, timing) of the casual BBQ style event, after which a more informed decision would be made. Upon a 2nd by Bill Conners, the assembly voted AIF.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony Pittore reported that we have not received any bird meat from the preserves like we usually have, due to the Avian flu problem.

Fish

Anthony reminded everyone about the free Family Fishing Day event on April 24th at Knight's Park (aka Overlook Park) off of Overlook Road in Lagrange. We provide hot dogs and sodas and help to the anglers. Rods are provided, and the DEC stocks some fish. It is a well-received event and help is always needed.

Bill Conners, reporting for Ken Rose, stated that the 1st round of state trout stockings for Dutchess County streams is planned for March 16th through the 22nd. Additional rounds of stocking for Wappingers Creek is planned for 4/5, 4/19, and 5/3.

In response to a question about multiple stockings throughout the season, Bill responded that while it has been discussed, due to hatchery delivery staffing issues, there are no other planned stockings.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

Anthony Pittore reminded everyone that the hunt is planned for Sept. 24th.

Conservation Education

Scott Emslie reported that the camp registration period was supposed to start the weekend of March 12th, but at short notice, the DEC postponed it until April 10th at 1:00 PM. This is primarily due to staffing problems at the camps. At this point, we have 12 kids that we will sponsor, if the camps are open. This will give us 1 free registration. Camp Colby will be closed this year for rehabilitation. Scott questioned why the state could not have done that when the camps were closed for the last 2 years.

Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Conners provided a report of various conservation related topics, including EHD, Covid and CWD, the 2021 bear harvest report, the Avian flu problem, and trout stream classification. Bill spoke briefly on those topics.

Bill also provided a legislative guide containing all of the current elected legislators serving Dutchess County at the county, state, and federal levels. This should be very helpful this election year and with contacting them about our issues and concerns. Bill would like to produce about 1000 copies to provide to the clubs, but to be cost effective, will need some volunteer help collating them.

New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners reported that the Council will be holding their Spring meeting on April 9th. He will be attending remotely.

Communications

None reported.

Unfinished (Old) Business

Treasurer Pete Kraayenbrink reported that only 1 club has not paid their annual dues this year: BassMasters.

Anthony Pittore reminded everyone about the SAFE Act 5-year pistol permit recertification requirement, because it has been 5 years since initial enactment.

New Business

Nothing reported.

Announcements

Scott Emslie reminded all of the upcoming Mid Hudson Friends of NRA Banquet on April 8th. There is a pre-event raffle and some underwrites still available.

Various club events were announced, including:

- Washington Hollow Rod & Gun Club - gun raffles.
- Trout Unlimited - a Catskills fly-fishing expert guest speaker at the upcoming March 21st TUI meeting at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Poughkeepsie.
- Pleasant Valley Trout and Game Club – a hunter course on April 30th with hands-on firearms handling
- Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club – a 3-D bow shoot on March 27th
- Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club – a youth trap shoot on March 15th at 6:00 PM
- Hudson Valley Sportsmens Assn. – upcoming hunter education courses

50/50 raffle winner – Mike Zeleznik.

Next regular meeting date: April 14, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary