



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

May 13, 2021 Regular Delegates Meeting

Tina's Restaurant, Poughkeepsie, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:33 PM by President Chris Villa

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jon Lucas.

A special moment of silence was observed for Penny Hickman, after some reflections by Chris Villa of her life and many years of contributions to the Federation and the CAF.

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel, first responders, and past Federation members.

Roll Call: 29 people were in attendance, representing 23 clubs.

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

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on November 12, 2020 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yasiejko. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on March 22, 2021 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yasiejko. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on April 26, 2021 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yasiejko. AIF

Guests

None

Committee Reports

Annual Dinner

Anthony Pittore will be the new chairman of this committee.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony Pittore reported that there is still about 900 pounds of duck breasts left, after 1000 pounds were distributed. Contact Anthony if your club can use the duck meat. The program continues to encourage and accept donations of deer. Again, contact Anthony on how to donate.

Fish

Bill Conners handed out copies of the new NY State Fishing Regulations Guide. The regulations are more complicated than before, but not as much in Dutchess County.

Ken Rose reported that all the trout stocking in the county has been completed, except for one more stocking of the Wappingers Creek.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

Anthony Pittore stated that the hunt is planned for Sept 25th. As always, volunteers are needed and welcome. As a reminder, the kids must be of ages 12-15, and need to be licensed.

Conservation Education

Scott Emslie reiterated that the DEC camps are again closed this year. Scott will eventually be reviewing the current list of sponsored youth to determine who still will be eligible for next year's camps.

Publicity

Ken Foster stated that the Dutchess County Fair is planned for this year. The committee will be working on details as we approach the event, especially as it pertains to the configuration of our booth there.

Bill Conners stated that there are no plans for an Outdoor Journal this year, due to the amount of work involved.

Club 36 raffle

The members discussed having a Club 36 raffle this year. The consensus was that a 50/50 style of raffle would serve us better. The Directors will discuss the details at the next Board meeting.

Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Conners distributed a summary report of various legislative and conservation related items.

Bill specifically spoke about 12-13 year-olds now being allowed to hunt big game with a firearm. But each county must pass a local law to approve it for their county. The appropriate Dutchess County legislators have been provided with all of the information they need, but are opting to wait to see what Orange County will do. It is not clear why they are waiting for that, because it should be a "no-brainer".

A question was raised by John O'Donnell (for 110 Rod & Gun) asking why the Federation is not more of a leader in the gun rights / 2nd Amendment lobby. Bill discussed that the Federation is, and has always been, a conservation centered organization. While gun ownership is a part of that, it could do more harm than good to our relationships with legislators and agencies, if our focus with them is on gun rights. In addition, there are numerous organizations that lobby for gun rights, such as the NRA, NYS Rifle & Pistol, Gun Owners of America, SCOPE, etc..., to which folks can support and become involved.

In response to a question, Bill stated that 9 bears were taken in Dutchess County last year.

New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners stated that the Council no longer has a physical office; it is virtual. They have hired an executive director who seems to be doing well. In addition, the communications from the Council seems to be improving. Time will tell.

Communications

None of significance to report.

Unfinished (Old) Business

Chris Villa reported that former Director Bernie Walker is doing OK and seems to be in good spirits, after foot surgery (toe amputation). Keep him in your thoughts.

New Business

Chris Villa announced the appointments of Tom Fiumarello and Mike Butts to fill the Board of Directors vacancies. Upon a motion by Steve Grotzinger and a second by Tom Lasko, the delegates approved the appointments.

Announcements

Scott Emslie stated that the Friends of NRA banquet is scheduled for Sept 17th. They have been running small raffles to help fund the dinner. He has tickets available for the latest raffle. Scott also noted some consolidated activities across the committees in the state, such as raffle efforts, etc...

Jackie Emslie stated that pistol license applications in the county have soared. So the need for gun courses and training has greatly increased. She encouraged clubs to consider hosting the classes, both to meet the need and as a source of income. Last year she taught 14 Women on Target clinics and she has already taught 7 this year.

Various club events were announced:

- Millbrook Rod & Gun has opened their trap and skeet ranges for members and guests.
- Washington Hollow Rod & Gun will be holding a Cornhole Tournament on June 19th.
- Pleasant Valley Trout & Game has opened their 5-stand and trap ranges.
- Crum Elbow Sportsmen continues to hold 5-stand Fridays.

The winner of tonight's 50/50 drawing was Tom Lasko

Next regular meeting date: June 10, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary