



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

February 8,2018 Regular Delegates Meeting

Copperfield's Restaurant, Washington Hollow, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:32 PM by President Tom Holsopple

Pledge of Allegiance Observed

A moment of Silence was observed for present, former and deceased members of the Armed Forces Services, our friends in Law Enforcements, First Responders as well as deceased members of the Federation.

Roll Call: 16 Clubs,20 Members,0 Guest

Guests Speaker: None

Minutes from Previous Board of Directors Meeting Accepted

Minutes from Previous Delegates Meeting Accepted

Treasurers Report Accepted

Communications Sally Wohlbach supplied a check to cover the cost of a child to attend camp this summer.
Tom Holsopple is working on the directory.

Annual Dinner The annual federation dinner was a success this year. There were lots of compliments on the food. Awards were presented to distinguished members as well as non-members who tirelessly support the federation. Thanks goes out to Jackie and Scott Emslie for taking charge of the Bucket Raffles that gets better every year.

Family Fishing Day Kevin Haight has been working with the Town of LaGrange for the 2018 Family Fishing Day and the event is committed for April 29th. Volunteers are needed. Free hot dogs and sodas. The event will be held at Overlook Park on Overlook Rd.

Support from clubs/members has been light. It would be nice to have a full complement for volunteers this year. The event usually starts at 9:00 Am and wraps up around 1:00 Pm. Community attendance has been growing.

Jr. Pheasant Hunt No Report

Fish Stocking The City of Poughkeepsie P.A.L will sponsor a day of fishing for the kids at Morgan Lake on the last Saturday in April.

Conservation Camp All but one kid has registered for camp.

Dutchess County Fair Booth No Report

Hunters Helping the Hungry Approx. 5,000 of wild game has been distributed this year.

Unfinished Business None

New Business None

Legislative Report Universal 12 yr. old hunting age. The Governor made a statement in his 2017 SOS about adding 500,000 new hunters, anglers and trappers to the ranks in NYS...he also would help get back the 500,000 licenses that we have already lost, that is a million licenses! Not sure how this can be accomplished without expanding youth hunting opportunities...hunting license sales to 12-15-year-old have declined 19% [2016-17] in recent years...if that rate continues, the outlook is not good in the long run.

The Senate passed Bill No. S03156 (Universal 12-year-old hunting age) by a vote of 47-13. The downstate dominated State Assembly will not be nearly as friendly.

We will be joining forces with Columbia County to launch a push to help DiDi Barrett of the 106th assembly District understand how important the bill is to the future of hunting here in New York and the viability of the Conservation Fund.

State Forest Initiative 480b

In the Governor's 2017 State of the State Message, he outlined proposals for New York's forest which included:

- Revisions to the State's forest property tax law including reimbursements to taxing jurisdictions.
- Two new grant programs aimed at private forest stewardship and community forests.
- State Agency procurement preferences for the purchase of New York based forest products.

We will have let the Governor know that we hope that he will use his power of persuasion. To see that the new Empire Forests for the future (initiative) is funded by the Legislature. The current 480a Plan has far too few forest owners taking advantage of tax breaks that would help the economy and the environment. The more than four decades old 480-a Forest Tax Law allows owners of 50 contiguous acres of forest to get a break on their property taxes in exchange for developing and following a forest management plan. That plan can allow for harvesting of forest products or outdoor recreation, but failure to follow the plan carries penalties. But as previously said, only a small percentage of eligible owners are taking advantage of the incentive.

The 480-a program would not go away, but new landowners would use the 480-b Program if it is funded by the Legislature. 480-b would simplify the application process and provide landowners who already have certified working forest with an easier approval process. The new law would also reduce the size of contiguous forest 50 acres to 25 acres for getting the tax break. The state considers forest contiguous regardless of county or town boundaries.

480-b would also expand eligible lands from just forest to include open spaces , including important riparian corridors that protect our trout streams.

The new law would also create "a state procurement preference for New York wood products.

We will keep you informed about the progress of the Universal Hunting age bill and the 480-b Plan and we'll let you know when we will be looking for everyone to reach out to their legislators.

Outdoor Journal Assuming the Federation want to produce another County Fair Edition of the Outdoor Journal for 2018, you will have to pull together a small community to see that we get ads from businesses and members to make the edition worthwhile.

Conners cannot chase ads and write/ produce the Journal.

Conners will also again call for ideas for material for the journal by way of information for the readers and articles.

We're pushing now so that you have time to get your clubs and other advertisers committed.

NYS The Board Meeting on February 17th will be a teleconference. That will save Conners five hours driving time. The teleconferencing will become the new norm.

Announcements Tom Holsopple is working on the new directory. He will have copies by the next meeting.

Upcoming events: March 10 Trap Shooting @ Edward R Murrow Park in Pawling.

March 24 Archery @ Edward R Morrow Park in Pawling

April 14 Trap Shooting @ Hudson Valley Sportsmens

April 28 Hunter Safety Class @HUDSON Valley Sportsmens

July 28 Trap Shooting @ Millerton Rod & Gun

March 31 Trap Shooting @ Washington Hollow

April 21 Gun Target @ Washington Hollow

Next Federation Bd. Of Directors Meeting February 26,2018

Next Federation Meeting March 8,2018

The Meeting was Adjourned 8:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted By David Compton
Federation Secretary.

