



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

December 14, 2023 Regular Delegates Meeting

JB's Bar & Grill, James Baird State Park, Pleasant Valley, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:37 PM by President Anthony Pittore

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anthony Pittore.

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

Roll Call: 29 people were in attendance, representing 17 clubs.

Guests

Brian Thompson, property owner of our Hunters Helping the Hungry processing facility. Mr. Thompson stated that he thinks very highly of the program and will continue to support it.

DEC ECO Kevin Wamsley discussed the following:

- It seems like this deer season is slower than in past years.
- Some bears were taken in the county but he did not yet know the official numbers.
- It is illegal to pick cattails, since they are in decline.
- Answered a question about the firearm transportation law. He re-iterated that a firearm is supposed to be in a locked hard case and out-of-sight in the vehicle, unless you are in attendance of it the entire time. So, he suggested that you err on the side of caution and follow the law. A plastic hard case with a padlock and covered with a blanket will suffice.

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

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on November 9, 2023 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Ralph Hafner. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on November 27, 2023 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Tom Gannon. AIF

Committee Reports

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony Pittore: The 4 freezers are full with about 2000 pounds of meat. 2 deer are in the cooler waiting to be processed. ECOs have delivered 4 confiscated deer to the program.

Fish

Anthony Pittore: About 350 trout will be stocked in Morgan Lake during the week of January 10th for ice fishing.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

Next year's event is planned for September 28th.

Conservation Education

Dave Morrison: All 14 sponsored kids who could not attend camp this year, have indicated they would like to attend next year. And 2 additional youth would like to go. Upon a motion by Dave Morrison and a 2nd by Jim Guyette, the delegates voted AIF to fund all 16 sponsorships, if all the kids go. Scott Emslie noted that the DEC has not yet published the registration opening date.

Youth Trap Shooting

Tom Gannon: The league is done for this year. Tom thanked the following folks for their time instructing the shooters: Chris Villa (Southern Dutchess), Ralph Savoy (110), Lucas Bliss, Bruce Leach, Rod Boyer (Northern Dutchess), and Tom Fiumarello (Whortlekill). He also thanked Anthony Pittore, Tom Fiumarello, Bill Conners, and Chris Villa for generous donations of ammo and clays. A thank you went to Jim Mayhar for facilitating use of the skeet range at Neighbors Gun Club.

Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Conners spoke about the following:

- A program by the DEC to get official permission from landowners for the fish stocking locations, instead of just verbal permission. New fishing permitted signage will be placed at the stocking sites.
- The hunting contest ban bill is awaiting the Governor's signature (Bill# S4099). He asked all to call the governor's office to request that she veto the bill: 518-474-8390.
- He is in process of updating the Legislative Guide and should have it ready by Feb.
- He emailed out Paloma Capanna's assessment of the recent 2nd Circuit Court decision about the NY gun laws.
- The lead ammo ban bill did not pass this year. But it is very likely to be re-introduced next session and will likely pass in the future. So be prepared.
- The Environmental Bond Act will provide some funds for the improvement of the state's aging fish hatchery system. DEC officials have assured him that there is no plan for capacity reduction. (Capacity is measured in pounds of fish, not number of fish.)
- He continues to monitor efforts that would require gun owners to carry liability insurance, which presents a conundrum since that type of insurance cannot be purchased in NYS.

New York State Conservation Council

No report.

Communications

Anthony Pittore reported that we received a \$100 donation from Peter Wohlbach for the Junior Hunter Pheasant Hunt. Peter is the brother of Dave Wohlbach who originated the hunt. Anthony noted that Dave's sister Sally usually pays for all of the food provided at the hunt.

Unfinished (Old) Business

Anthony is seeking someone to chair the gun raffle to help fund a pavilion at Overlook Park, where we hold the annual Family Fishing Day. The raffle will have 2 guns and a \$100 3rd prize.

In the previous minutes, it was noted that a club has indicated a desire to join the Federation as an affiliate member. The Board has still not received the required paperwork from the club.

Nominating committee:

Committee chairman Ralph Hafner presented the slate of nominations for officers for 2024:

President	Anthony Pittore
1 st Vice President	Ken Foster
2 nd Vice President	Mike Butts
Legislative VP	Bill Conners
Secretary	Tom Holsopple
Treasurer	Pete Kraayenbrink

Board of Directors	Tom Gannon
(2-year terms)	Tom Fiumarello
	Kevin Haight
	Bruce Hotaling
	Judy Fiumarello
	Ralph Hafner

Ralph called for nominations from the floor 3 times.

Upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a 2nd by Bill Conners, the assembly voted to close the nominations and have the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate. AIF.

New Business

Dave Compton reviewed and explained **proposed By-Laws changes**, copies of which were handed out to the delegates:

- Article III Membership: A change that would establish a 12 month probationary period for new Affiliate and Youth Affiliate membership applicants.
 - Explanation: This would allow for organizations to join the Federation, but then determine if their goals and mission align with the Federation's mission.
- Article IV Delegates: Adds a 3rd Vice President position
 - Explanation: To allow for another leadership role in the Federation.
- Article XIV Rules of Order and Amendments: Reduces the number of meetings to implement a By-Laws change.
 - Explanation: Instead of a reading at meeting 1, a 2nd reading at meeting 2, then a vote at meeting 3, the 2nd reading at meeting 2 would be eliminated. To allow for changes to adopted more quickly.

Announcements

Manchester Hunt Club will be hosting a Veterans pheasant hunt on January 6th. They will provide dogs and handlers and provide instructions. Contact Scott Gannon at 845-416-0233.

Scott Emslie, reported that Mid-Hudson Friends of NRA committee has a new chairperson from Putnam County. The annual Banquet will be held on April 12th 2024 at Villa Borghese. As usual, sponsorships are available to underwrite prizes. Contact Scott.

Scott also has raffle tickets for a commemorative Henry rifle. Tickets are \$100 and the drawing will be held on December 24.

Scott noted that he will be relocating out of state in early 2024.

50/50 raffle winner – Steve Grotzinger.

Next regular meeting date: January 11, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary