



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

October 15, 2020 Regular Delegates Meeting

Crum Elbow Sportsmen's Association, Hyde Park, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:28 PM by President Chris Villa.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John O'Donnell.

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

Roll Call: 18 people were in attendance, representing 17 clubs.

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

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on February 13, 2020 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yaszko. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on February 24, 2020 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yaszko. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on June 22, 2020 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Tom Lasko. AIF

Guests

President Chris Villa recognized Dave Morrison from Southern Dutchess & Putnam Sportsmens club, who was substituting Bernie Walker. Bernie is currently is in the hospital (and being cantankerous as usual).

Committee Reports

Annual Dinner

There was a discussion on the viability of still having the dinner, because of the pandemic and all the unknowns around fluid regulations from the governor. Bill Connors volunteered to contact Villa Borghese to determine if there are any available reasonable dates in January or February, and we'll decide from there.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony Pitore reported that 451 pounds of venison have been distributed so far. Anthony will contact Clove Valley and other clubs about donations of game birds. If any clubs have bird meat to donate, please contact Anthony. That meat is highly appreciated by the food kitchens to whom we donate. The committee is also seeking individuals' deer donations, since that has decreased over the last several years. To donate a deer, call Anthony at (914) 755-9667, who will meet the person at the cooler facility in Wappingers Falls.

Conservation Education

Scott Emslie recommend that, due to the cancelled camps this year, we carry over any eligible kids to next year. Upon a motion by Bill Conners and a 2nd by Anthony Pittore, the delegates approved the recommendation. Scott will contact the kids.

Junior Hunter Pheasant Hunt

While the hunt was cancelled this year, Anthony Pittore stated that he guided the DEC with the field cutting at the Lafayette MUA this year before the pheasant season. This made for excellent habitat and hunting opportunity this year. However, it was noted that the property has seen much larger hunting pressure. Anthony will follow up with the DEC to ensure that capacity regulations are adhered to, as much as possible.

Legislation

Bill Conners presented a legislative and conservation-related report. Bill highlighted the following:

- Director Penny Hickman is in the hospital, so keep her in our thoughts and prayers.
- In his role with the FWMB, Bill is pushing for a wanton waste law, so that it would be illegal to waste game meat indiscriminately. This is a law in other states.
- EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease) has been killing deer in Region 3 and several in Region 4. Dutchess County has seen its share. The DEC estimates that 1200 deer have died so far, but that is believed to be a low number. The disease is not transferrable to humans
- Several deer in upstate counties have died from rabies. So the recommendation is if you see or shoot a sick deer, leave it be.
- The DEC has proposed an Extended Deer Season, from December 26 to January 1st. Since there are widely varying stakeholder opinions on it (like the snowmobiling community and dependent businesses very much against it), the FWMB is not taking a position on the proposal itself. Instead, they are taking issue with how it came about and was proposed, with little if any stakeholder input.
- There are varying opinions on the virtual Hunter Education classes. The DEC will be closely tracking hunting related safety incidents to determine if there is a correlation from the lack of range time and firearms handling instruction. More than 100,00 students have signed up for the classes, with nearly 1/3 being women. It was noted that a number of long-time instructors are leaving the program.

New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners stated that the Council is finally looking at closing the office and going more virtual. They still need to find more ways to raise money to fund themselves.

Communications

Anthony Pittore received an email from Sandy Washburn, the Dutchess County Parks Director, about increasing fishing opportunities at the county parks. Events like family fishing days and fishing workshops are being considered. So she reached out to us for advice, knowledge, assistance, etc... There are 2 fishing spots: Quiet Cove Riverfront Park on the Hudson River and Wilcox Park in Town of Milan. The members indicated interest in helping, so Anthony will follow up.

Unfinished (Old) Business

A question was asked about the Upton Lake access issue. Bill Conners responded that at this point, anglers should try to use the property and right-of-way access. If access is prevented by the neighboring landowner, avoid any confrontation and report it to Bill at 845-635-1606. A proposed permit system has not yet been instituted.

New Business

President Chris Villa asked for 3 volunteers to serve on the Nominating committee. Basically the committee is tasked with asking officers and directors whose terms are ending if they will serve again, and seeking nominees for any open seat. Tom Lasko and Ralph Hafner volunteered, and Dave Compton will be asked to continue on the committee. Tom Lasko will serve as chairman. Nominations to be presented at the November and December meetings with a vote to be held at the December meeting.

Announcements

Scott Emslie stated that the Friends of NRA Dinner that had been postponed to 10/18, has once again been postponed to December. This is due to increased scrutiny by the state of adherence to Covid regulations by venues such as Villa Borghese. While that venue could safely accommodate the 130 attendees that are anticipated, they did not want to take any chances.

Bob Haan gave kudos to instructor Jackie Emslie for the excellent Women-on-Target clinics that were held recently at Neighbors Gun Club. Scott Emslie stated that 13 clinics have been held, or will be held, this year so far, and always have full attendance.

The member were asked for their input on a setting for next month's meeting. It was decided to hold it here again at Crum Elbow if possible, since their indoor room should be large enough to follow social distancing guidelines for our size group. The Board will follow up to determine if it is available for the 2nd Thursday of November.

Chris Villa offered that the delegates consider Daddy O's restaurant on Rt. 82 in Hopewell (2 miles from the Taconic Parkway) as a future meeting venue. While it is less central than we are used to, it has a large enough room to be safe for our group and would likely offer a reasonable cost for dinner. Maybe next year??

Ken Foster announced several events at Pleasant Valley Trout & Game Club, including their gun of the year raffle. See Ken for tickets. The list of events will be posted on the Federation web site.

No 50/50 drawing was held this month, since the Federation provided the food free of charge to the delegates.

Probable next regular meeting date: November 12, 2020 (tentatively at Crum Elbow club).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary