

**Northwest CT Sportsman's Council**  
**3 Bare Hill Road, Goshen, CT 06756**  
**nwsc.org 860 491-3116**

**Council Minutes: January 23, 2007**

Council Vice-president Jason Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. All rise for Pledge of Allegiance.  
Roll of Delegates, Clubs, Officers and Guests:

Elise Mauriello, Newgate Coon Club & Bristol F&G; Phil Mauriello, Woodbury/ Southbury R&G; Peter Thomas, Ousatonic F&G; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Dominic Basile, Chase R&P; Mike Fusco, Harwinton R&G; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Chris Marino, NVBC; Tony Chianese, Bethlehem WCC; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WCC; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Jake Parmalee, NW R&G; Adam Murray, NW CT R&G; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River Coon Club; Jerry Gourd, NW Trout Unlimited.

Officers in attendance: Vice-President , Secretary and Treasurer.

Guests: Tom Small representing the Ratlum Mountain Fish & Game Club.

**Secretary's Report:** Chris Marino

Minutes of the December meeting were distributed via e-mail and at the meeting to any delegates needing copies.

The Secretary reported that the Council web site has been updated with all CAC and Council Reports to date. E-mails for officers and committees have been developed. Several sections of the web site have become active, including Projects & Volunteers and Donations & Support. The Articles page has a new sub-heading entitled Conservation Notebook. The first contribution to this heading is a report on the New England Cottontail and its status as a candidate species for inclusion on the federal endangered species list.

A motion was made by Jim Fedorich and seconded to, "accept the December Minutes." Discussion. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Accuosti

Account balances reviewed.

Tom reported on a bad check deposited from last year's banquet. We were late in making the deposit, and another check to cover this was apparently lost. After some discussion, it was decided that no further effort will be made to collect since we are at least partially responsible.

All bills have been paid to date.

A motion by Chris Marino to, "accept the Treasurer's Report as delivered" was seconded. Discussion. Motion approved.

**Correspondence:**

A letter was received and read to the delegates from Gary Link, President of the Metacon Gun Club. The Metacon Gun Club offered their thanks for the Council contributions this past year to Metacon's Legal Defense and described some of the issues that will be addressed in this litigation that may be of importance to all sportsmen's clubs and shooting ranges.

A letter was drafted by the Secretary, approved by the President and sent to Kim Barberry, Conservation Officer for the City of Torrington. The letter expresses our support of the city's efforts to remove two defunct dams along the Naugatuck River.

**Committees:**

**Membership:**

Mr. Tom Small, Vice-president and Board Chairman of the Ratlum Mountain Fish & Game Club appeared before the delegates to apply for Council membership. The Ratlum Club is a small club of approximately 30 members located in Burlington. Tom reports that the club is primarily a fishing club. Jim Fedorich acted as sponsor and spoke highly of the club.

Jim Fedorich moved to, "Accept the Ratlum Mtn. Fish & Game as a member of NWCSA." Motion seconded. Discussion. Motion approved. The Secretary provided an information sheet to be filled out for our next meeting. Tom Small will be the primary delegate for Ratlum Mt. Welcome to the Council.

**Conservation Advisory Council:** Jason Marshall Report for January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Sgt. Jim Wolfe reviewed Law enforcement activity, and procedures for TIP Trailer or DEP presence at public functions. Sgt. Wolfe reported that DEP is in the process of hiring 5 new ECP.

- Another Forestry bill has been introduced in the legislature this session. Needs sportsman support.
- New inland fish habitat initiative focusing on fish passages was reported. Affects major river systems and coastal basins throughout the state, including the Housatonic.
- Proposed DEP regulation to control off-leash dogs on state land will be coming up for Public Hearing. Expected to be controversial.
- Several land parcels are being negotiated for DEP purchase as part of the Grasslands Initiative.
- DEP sponsored archery program for high schools.
- CAC elections were held in January. Elected officials include: Chairman, Chris Marino; Vice-chair, Tip Garritt; and as Secretary, Jason Marshall.

#### **Banquet:**

- Discuss preparations, donations and ticket sales.
- Mike Fusco motions to, “authorize Jim Fedorich to purchase fishing items at Orvis not to exceed \$500.00 for the banquet.” Motion receives a second. Discussion. Motion approved.
- Special meeting date for banquet preparations on Tuesday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Council Headquarters.
- Pete brought up an issue regarding the banquet flyer not being descriptive enough. Flyer should list buffet, meal choice, cash bar, activities, etc.

#### **Old Business:**

- Discuss introduction of Real Estate Disclosure bill that was introduced in this session of the legislature by Senator Roraback on our behalf. The Insurance and Real Estate Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the bill.
- Discuss holding another legislative outing this summer. The last one was held at Torrington F&G and was well received. Agree to revisit issue after banquet.
- Council logo clothing was reviewed. Anyone wanting an item should see Jason Marshall.
- Dom reported on the Metacon donation and the range disclosure bill.

#### **New Business:**

Jim Fedorich reported on his investigation regarding rental of heavy brush clearing equipment for habitat projects. Jim visited the Caterpillar Rental business in Torrington and reported on what he learned regarding rental and capabilities. The tracked equipment Jim looked at will take 8 to 10 inch trees down. Jim suggests renting this equipment for a few days and offering to do some habitat work on a state WMA in cooperation with the DEP. Cost to rent is approximately \$750.00 per day and \$85.00 per hour to deliver and pick up.

Discussion of this concept included liability concerns. Jake Parmalee responded to liability from his experience as manager of an equipment rental operation.

- Hiring an experienced operator. This would be more efficient for land clearing.
- The concept of donating work of this type on state land was questioned in regard to the state’s responsibility of managing public property with our tax dollars and fees that we pay. While this is true, it was pointed out that DEP has done major management work in the past several years at Robbins Swamp WMA, Goshen WMA, Roraback WMA and other locations. The simple truth is that they do not currently have the financial resources to do as much work as sportsmen and conservationists would like to see accomplished. The other valid point to support our involvement is that the management work we want to do will directly benefit the greatest number of sportsmen through enhanced game habitat and management that is available to all.
- Jim Fedorich moves to, “allocate up to \$2500.00 for the rental of land clearing equipment to be used to conduct an early successional habitat project on a state wildlife management area, in cooperation with DEP.” Mike Fusco seconds. Motion passes with one opposed.
- Jim, Jason and Chris will contact wildlife biologist Pete Picone to initiate project.

#### **Good of the Council:**

Jerry Gourd reported on the CT Aquatic Resource Education Program. A VHS tape is available for review to inform groups about the program and how to get involved in developing an educational youth fishing program.

Jerry mentioned that NW TU meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM, at the Elk’s Club in Torrington. Anyone would be welcome to attend. Jerry will be doing a presentation on March 6<sup>th</sup> on the Housatonic River.

Motion to adjourn and second. Passed. **Adjourn at 9:45 PM.**

Chris M. Marino  
Secretary: NWCSC