

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

Council Minutes: February 27, 2007

Council President Craig Nelson called the December meeting to order at 7:35 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; Jerry Ciarcia, Waterbury F&G; Dominic Basile, Chase R&P; Jason Marshall, NWCSA; Chris Marino, NVBC; Tony Chianese, BWCC; Tom Accuosti, Goshen Sportsmen; Clyde Breakell, Foothill's Sportsmen; Craig Nelson, New Preston R&G; Joe Rinaldi, Torrington F&G; Jim Fedorich, Sharon F&G; Mike O'Connell, UBC; Jim Fairchild, Bethlehem WWCC; Seamus Muzzulin, Rocky River CC.

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

Guests: Joe Gemelli and Greg Esker representing the NW CT Clay Crushers.

Presentation: NW CT Clay Crushers.

The President suspended the regular agenda to allow Joe Gemelli and Greg Esker an opportunity to present the NWCCC program to the Council Delegates. Joe is the State Director for the Scholastic Clay Target Program, (SCTP) and Greg is the Head Coach of the NWCCC. They are seeking Council aid in financing the NWCCC program in NW CT.

The program is hosted by the Olde Newgate Coon Club, with classes and shooting being held there and at the Torrington F&G, (skeet facility.) It is open to youths from grade 5 through 12. This is the first Sporting Clays youth team formed in CT. No cost to kids to date. Current sponsors include Loc-tite Corp., Sunbusters and the NSSF. The intent of the program is to encourage young people to get involved in the shooting sports.

The program was started in 2000 as a "Not for Profit" entity, and now has three volunteer coaches with twelve students enrolled. The program is open to additional students providing more volunteer coaches can be found. The program can be expanded to include additional clubs and other disciplines such as skeet and trap. Joe reports that the program is also linked to school performance. Youth enrolled in the program must maintain a C average to participate.

The NW CT Clay Crushers are looking for Council sponsorship; at some level, to help with expenses, which include the cost of clays, ammunition, gear, entry fees, firearms and travel. All team purchases remain with their organization. Annual costs have averaged between four and six thousand dollars a year. The group hopes to raise more money this year to allow attendance at the National SCTP Shoot in San Antonio, Texas.

Return to Regular Meeting at 8:15 PM.

Secretary's Report: Chris Marino

Minutes for the January regular meeting were distributed via e-mail with additional copies available at the February meeting. Seamus Muzzlin moves to, "accept the minutes as provided". Motion seconded. Discussion. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Accuosti

Tom reports that finances are in a state of flux due to accounting and deposits for the annual banquet.

Our paid attendance was for 280 people. Our greatest expense was with Autumn Gun Works for guns, (at \$6524.30) and raffle goods, (at \$1313.77). Total expense with AGW is \$7838.07. This bill is being paid at tonight's meeting. Other paid expenses include Jason Marshall for raffle goods at \$500.00.

Tom has yet to calculate proceeds from ticket sales and the live and silent auctions. Tom retains 255 ticket stubs for our mailing list for next year. All in all, it looks like we have had another very successful banquet.

Chris Marino moves to, "accept the Treasurer's Report as delivered". Motion receives a second. Discussion. Motion approved.

Committees:

Banquet:

Discuss booking the Grand Oak Villa for next year. Tom reports that he was informed the per person price would increase by two dollars for next year. This is still very reasonable when compared to other banquet facilities. Tom suggests attempting to get another three year agreement at the new price. We have a choice of February 22 or 29th for 2008. Jim Fedorich moves to "authorize the banquet committee to negotiate a new contract with the Grand Oak Villa". Motion seconded. Discussion. Motion approved.

Jason Marshall moves to, "book the date of February 29th for 2008". Motion seconded. Discussion. Approved.

Phil Mauriello suggests doing a slide presentation next year highlighting the work and accomplishments of the Council.

We need to target Cabela's when they open in CT next year. It was agreed that we could offer our ticket sales mailing list as an incentive.

We need to create another Women in the Outdoors and Youth in the Outdoors display boards. We also need to update the banquet flyer to better describe the banquet and events. It was also suggested that we add a fish selection to our menu.

Correspondence: None.

Membership: Ratlin Mtn. F&G has turned in required informational paperwork for their membership.

Conservation Advisory Council: February meeting cancelled due to weather.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

Discuss legislative session and the current crop of anti-gun bills that have been introduced. Dom reports that, as expected, the lost & stolen gun bill is this session's focal point. The ammunition bills and one-gun a month bill likely will receive no action this session. It was felt that Council members should concentrate their efforts to defeating the several bills that relate to lost & stolen guns.

It was also noted that all sides seem to agree on refunding the State Police Firearms Task Force. The bill to do this is a good alternative to all other legislative efforts regarding firearms and the only one that would have any chance of actually reducing illegal possession of firearms. We support this effort.

The Council also discussed the recent introduction of a new bill, (as yet un-numbered) by DEP to create several new fish & game licenses and a new salt water, marine fishing license. As Chairman of the DEP/ BNR Conservation Advisory Council, Chris Marino commented on the proposal and the reasoning behind it.

The proposal is primarily a means to raise revenue for the agency. If passed, the income from all the new licenses will be deposited directly to the Environmental Conservation Fund for use by DEP. The new revenue should be sufficient to allow DEP to fund all natural resource programs for the next several years with no further license increases.

The marine license will address several issues: At the top of the list is the fact that by the year 2011, the federal government is going to require an accounting of all marine sport recreation fishermen in order to better assess the impact of recreational fishing on marine stock. We are informed that the legislation

making this requirement has a provision to create a federal marine license if the states do not implement one on their own. Our DEP is taking the initiative to create the state license and retain the revenue generated for use directly by the State of CT. DEP is also asking for license reciprocity with any other New England State that provides the same enabling provision. New Hampshire has introduced legislation to do this and Rhode Island is planning along the same line.

The marine license and revenue will also rectify a funding gap for marine programs. Annually, DEP diverts approximately 25% of inland fisheries revenue to fund marine programs. The new revenue will eliminate this diversion of funds. It is also expected that the new revenue will fund programs that overlap between marine and freshwater fisheries.

As proposed, this bill has the potential to be a real benefit to the DEP, Sportsmen and Conservation efforts. It is a bill sportsmen can and should support. However, we must remain vigilant to ensure that all other current state funding remains in place and that transparency exists in how the agency allocates the new funds.

Chris asked the delegates to bring this proposal to their respective clubs, try to explain the rationale behind the proposal, and get a sense of how our sportsmen view the issue..

Discuss the range protection issue. We have heard very little regarding the progress of this bill. We need to check on current status.

NW CT Clay Crushers:

Jim Fedorich brought up the issue of Council support for NWCCC, as requested during the presentation at this meeting. Delegates discussed some level of funding for youth programs. It was pointed out that we have annually funded and run the Junior Hunting Day for seven years. The broader issue is in determining parameters for what is relevant and supportable of all our clubs on an organizational basis.

Many clubs sponsor junior programs at their facilities. Some are for members only and some are open to non-members. Do we want to fund club functions or develop some criteria to fund programs of a more regional nature? As with so many other funding issues, once we set a precedent we open a door to more requests of a similar nature. We know there is funding available through the NRA, FNRA and NSSF. We need to determine if this is a proper role for the Council to be involved in. It was suggested that the best way to handle many of the funding issues would be to create budget items; based on our annual income, which would dedicate a proportion of funding to the various issues the Council Delegates determine are worthy of our attention. Chris Marino moves to "table the issue of funding the NWCCC until the March meeting" Motion receives a second. Motion approved.

Good of the Council:

President Nelson asks that the Budget Committee move forward with a proposal for the Council.

Harwinton R&G Game Dinner : March 4th.

NW Trout Unlimited Dinner: March 10th.

Litchfield County Limb Hangers, NWTF: First annual dinner scheduled for April.

FNRA, Aqua-Turf: March 29.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Approved. Adjourn 9:45 PM

Chris M. Marino
Secretary: NWCSC