

# Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC  
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nwsc.org  
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Council Report: June 22, 2004

Due to a lack of a quorum, the June meeting was conducted as an informal meeting. Council President, Chris Marino, called the meeting to order at 7:40PM. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll of Clubs, delegates and officers attending:**

|                   |               |                          |            |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Goshen Sportsmen  | Tom Accousti  | Second Amendment Sisters | Jen Zordan |
| Sharon Rod & Gun  | Jim Fedorich  | Harwinton Rod & Gun      | Mike Fusco |
| Waterbury F&G     | Gerry Ciarcia | NWCSA                    | Peter Gray |
| NVBC              | Chris Marino  |                          |            |
| Guest/ NWCSA/ DEP | Tim Barry     |                          |            |

**Officer** in attendance: President; Chris Marino.

We would like to thank Jim and Marge Fedorich for opening their home to our Council members, and acting as hosts for the June meeting. The members attending enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by our hosts.

**Council Report** for May reviewed and approved.

**Financial Report** given by Chris. Account balance essentially the same as previous month. Clyde paid bills from last month. We are expecting refunds from Concorde EFS and Domain Registry of America. Hopefully, all issues have been resolved with these two firms.

## **Membership:**

Membership information has been received from the Secretary of the Goshen Sportsmen. We welcome this club as our latest Council member. Tom Accousti will be the primary delegate for the Goshen Sportsmen.

## **Correspondence:**

Letter to Mark Clavette regarding Pheasant Program sent out.

Letter received from Tom Accousti, Secretary of the Goshen Sportsmen indicating the Goshen Sportsmen have decided to join the Council.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Rapid Response:**

### **Banquet:**

### **Raffle:**

ATV raffle discussed. Mike Fusco obtained an application for space at the Harwinton Fair. We need to know who will volunteer Fair time for the raffle and make arrangements. Several members mentioned a need for more raffle posters. Jason to print posters for distribution. We need to pursue space at the various Goshen Fair activities. We also need delegates to get this ATV out to sporting functions and sell tickets. Call Chris to make arrangements.

### **Conservation Advisory Council to DEP:**

This report will be posted to the web site.

## **Old Business:**

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Discuss mercury contamination and its effects. It was noted that the Council had voted at its May meeting to sign on to a petition being circulated by the National Wildlife Federation which calls for the EPA to adhere to standards previously established by the Clean Air Act to address mercury contamination. Jason Marshall was to see to our filing with the NWF.

**Chris Marino reported The June 9th Forest Management/Stewardship Seminar, which was held at the Goshen Town Hall and sponsored by CT Audubon, to the Council.** Chris served as a panelist for the Seminar representing the Goshen Conservation Commission. Many business and conservation organizations with large land holdings were represented at this gathering. Each representative gave an overview of how the organization represented manages its land holdings. All seem to be very environmentally aware and manage for the greatest environmental benefit. All representatives acknowledged the role of the hunter in maintaining species populations. The contributions of trappers to population stability and habitat management were conspicuously absent except for brief mention. While organizations such as Nature Conservancy are now coming to appreciate the hunter as a tool of the management process; many organizations do not appear to see beyond what they consider the necessary control role that hunters play. There was little mention of hunting as a legitimate outdoor sport and little appreciation of hunting as a part of our cultural heritage. We are fortunate that a symbiotic relationship seems to be developing between the concepts of active wildlife and habitat management today, (as it did in the past) and the role of hunters in aiding the management process.

Overall, the seminar was well presented and informative in many respects. It is unfortunate that the only attendees to hear all of this consisted of two sportsmen from our Council, state representative Roberta Willis, and the members of the Goshen Conservation Commission. Other seminars of the same type are being planned for locations throughout the state. It would be worth attending if one were held in your area.

**Pheasant Program:** The letter to program director, Mark Clavette has been sent. Council members reviewed the comments and suggestions in this letter at the May meeting. The letter was revised to reflect information from this meeting and sent to DEP.

What we do know regarding the 2004 pheasant program has come from Bureau Chief, Edward Parker at our CAC meetings. Sportsmen should be encouraged to learn that the extra revenue derived in 2003 will be used to improve the program in 2004 and beyond. Mr. Parker has informed us that the extra revenue will be used to upgrade stocking equipment over the next three years; re-stock several areas that were not stocked in 2003; and stock more birds in 2004. Twenty thousand plus birds have been ordered for 2004, up from the seventeen thousand stocked in 2003. The ratio of birds per hunter will be greater than what we have seen since the early 1980's.

**Parking access** for Goshen WMA area off East Street, North. This subject was discussed at the Land Management Seminar. Judy Wilson was the DEP representative to the seminar. We spoke to Judy about the need for an access to this property, and again offered our service to help accomplish the work. Judy said she would check on the status of this project see what can be done. We also have it on good authority that Pete Picone is trying to move this issue forward within the agency. Access will be discussed at DEP staff meetings.

**Burlington Trout Hatchery:** We discussed the lack of progress in getting in touch with the hatchery director to inquire as to how the Council might be of service in covering trout ponds. We have learned that as a result of covering most of the ponds, the tonnage of trout raised to stocking size has increased to a point of breaking all previous production records. Tonnage has gone from approximately 45 tons to a record 80 to 85 tons. This increased production benefits anglers statewide through the hatchery distribution program, and will be more important during dry years when production at the Quinnebaug hatchery is typically at a reduced level. Our Council President asked Jim Fedorich to take on the responsibility of contacting the hatchery manager and finding out what is needed. Jim will report in July.

#### **New Business:**

**Fisheries Biologist; Tim Barry** was asked to give a short presentation of fresh water fisheries work this year. Tim reported on the pike fishery and progress at the spawn marshes. He mentioned that they may expand the pike program to Lake Lillinoah this year. Pike are already present in this water but conditions seem to be good for stocking more pike, thereby increasing the number of pike throughout. After sampling Tyler Lake this

spring, Tim reports the walleye stocked in Tyler seem to be absent. Predation is the likely cause of this loss. Conversely; the walleye fishery is well established at Squantz Pond and fishermen are reaping the benefit of this program.

Tim also commented on the effect sportsman's organizations such as ours is having at the agency level. Tim believes the agency does listen when we comment on issues that affect us, and they do try to address those issues within the means they have available. This was a welcome note of encouragement from someone who is in a position to know. Thanks Tim.

Planning for this year's, **Statewide Junior Hunting Day** has begun. We are looking for a date at Torrington Fish & Game. Jim to confirm.

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

##### **Council Outing:**

Discuss preparations to hold this event. Priority is to establish a location and date for the event. Jim Fedorich to bring this up with Torrington Fish & Game. Kitchen, grounds and skeet field. Mike suggests organizing delegates for potluck donations of side dishes and desserts. We anticipate approximately 200 attendees. Mike also has experience in organizing this type of event. We will ask Gerry Zordan to send RSVP invitations to potential political guests. We will host a skeet event from approximately 11AM to 1:30PM. We formed an Outing Committee of Clyde, Mike, Jen, Jason, Jim, Gerry and whoever else wants to help. Possibility of asking Jim Gillespie to give a short talk on the habitat management program at the club. Collect several items for raffles during day of outing. We are thinking of a \$10.00 ticket with children 12 years and under free! Non-alcohol or alcohol after skeet field closes. Mike to look into music for event.

Chris will e-mail committee members when we set a meeting date.

July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of NWCSC scheduled to be held at our NWCSC office, 3 Bare Hill Road, Goshen. Meeting starts at 7:30PM.

**Adjourn: 10 PM**