

# Northwest CT Sportsman's Council

NWCSC  
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Council Report: 05/25/2004

The May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting was noteworthy in that it was the first meeting of the Council to be held at our current Council Headquarters in Goshen. Council President, Chris Marino, called the meeting to order at 7:40PM. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll of Clubs, Delegates and Officers:

Foothill's Sportsmen	Clyde Breakell	Harwinton Rod & Gun	Mike Fusco
NVBC	Chris Marino	Old Newgate Coon Club	Elise Mauriello
Woodbury/Southbury F&G	Phil Mauriello	Bell City R&P	Dom Basile
NWCSC	Peter Gray	NWCSC	Jason Marshall
NW Chapter TU	Jim Bower	Waterbury F&G	Gerry Ciarcia
CT Classic Bucks	Dean Fraley	New Preston R&G	Craig Nelson
CT 2ND Amendment Sisters	Jen Zordan	Goshen Sportsmen (Guest)	Tom Accousti

Officers present: President, Chris Marino; V-President, Jason Marshall, Treasurer, Clyde Breakell.  
Introduce Tom Accousti of the Goshen Sportsmen.

Council Report for April reviewed and accepted as presented.

Financial Report:

Treasurer reports no substantial change in account balance from previous meeting. Federal tax return has been prepared and submitted. CPA; Norman Lindroth, of New Hartford donated his services in preparing our return. The Council extends its thanks to this gentleman for his generous support.

Bills were reported: Jason Marshall; \$26.06 to reimburse shipping of S&W plaque in recognition of their continuing support of the Council. Bill from Domain Registry of America for nwcsc.org domain name. 5 years at \$85.00. **Motion to pay bill made and seconded. Motion passed.**

We seem to be having a problem with the credit card service provider in that they are billing us for a monthly service charge on equipment we do not have. We are attempting to resolve this problem.

Financial report accepted as presented.

Membership: We received an inquiry from the Secretary of the Goshen Sportsmen regarding attending an NWCSC meeting. Secretary, Tom Accousti was invited to attend the May meeting with the intent of observing our meeting and learning about membership requirements. Tom will report back to his club with the information he has acquired.

Correspondence:

Received a response from DEP Deputy Commissioner, David Leff to our letter of inquiry regarding the status of several recently acquired tracts of state land in the NW corner; including Camp Columbia and the Kent/Cornwall, Housatonic tract. Commissioner Leff cited a backlog in determination of divisional responsibility for many of these parcels as the primary reason why recreational opportunities have not been implemented as yet. The backlog is due to the large number of properties acquired by the state in recent years and the need to evaluate each parcel before making decisions as to which agency division will be responsible for each and what public activities will be allowed.

Commissioner Leff indicated that final determinations should be completed this summer, providing a note of encouragement to sportsmen for the fall hunting season. Along with this positive indication, he also cautioned that the Camp Columbia property in Morris is presenting a more complicated situation because of the many structures and historical architectural and archeological resources on the property. What this caution will mean to sportsmen and their access to this property for outdoor pursuits remains to be seen.

Letter received by Jason Marshall, from Steve Wright; Director of the National Wildlife Federation. This letter asks that our Council consider signing onto a, "National Sportsmen's Group Petition" to the federal government asking for action to be taken to protect our national fish and wildlife resources from the threat of mercury

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contamination. The petition states that more than 10 million acres of lakes and 400,000 miles of streams in America are contaminated with mercury. Forty-three states and one territory now warn the public about unsafe mercury levels and advise against people eating locally caught fish. The NWF essentially wants the EPA to adhere to the intent and obligations contained in the current, "Clean Air Act" to reduce mercury pollution.

**Motion made by Clyde to, "sign onto NWF petition regarding mercury pollution abatement".  
Second by Dean. Motion passed.**

#### **Committees:**

##### **Rapid Response.**

##### **Banquet.**

Delegates are urged to consider the banquet at all times. We can't start too early in finding items that may be of interest for next year's banquet.

**CAC:** Minutes of May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting distributed. Report can be viewed on the nwsc.org web site. By-law changes were instituted at the May meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Council. Included in the changes is a name change for this organization. Hereafter, the official name of the CAC is: "Conservation Advisory Council to the State of Connecticut; Department of Environmental Protection; Bureaus of Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation".

Another noteworthy item brought up at this meeting was a provision in this year's Wildlife Regulation proposals to reduce the acreage requirement needed to establish, "Preserve Status" from the current 300 acres to 200 acres.

**ATV Raffle:** Ticket sales are not as good as they could be. Jason again urged the members to make an effort in getting this machine out before the public. We only have three months before the drawing. All delegates should try to find ways to display the ATV and sell tickets.

Jason Marshall: Goshen Fair. Jim Fedorich: Goshen Dog Show. Mike Fusco: Harwinton Fair. Bethlehem Fair: Jen Zordan. Dean; Store. Chris: Store.

#### **Old Business:**

Discuss Muzzleloader turkey hunting proposal. Progress report. Contact with muzzleloader groups suggested to build support.

Dean Fraley reports continuing meetings regarding bow hunting on a 398-acre portion of the Steep Rock Preserve in Washington. Dean reports that prospects look good and limited bow hunting should be opened to any CT bow hunter on this property. The Washington Rod & Gun club will administer the permits for this area. Hunting will be limited to three hunters per day. Both deer and turkey hunting will be allowed.

Jen Zordan reported on the Washington D.C. rally of the Second Amendment Sisters. About 400 pro-firearms people turned out for an interesting day at the Capitol. A con-current rally was held by the Million Moms March, which turned out about 2,000 antis. Jen spent Monday at NRA News.com taping a segment on the rally. A delegation also spent time with the Second Amendment Caucus at the Capitol and discussed firearms issues including the upcoming expiration of the assault weapons ban. Jen reports that the feeling in the Capitol remains that this issue will not come up for renewal, and will therefore be allowed to expire.

Regarding the Forestry Bill passed this legislative session, it was reported that we have learned the Nature Conservancy has offered to fund three forester positions at \$390,000 in order to help the program get off to a good start. This offer of financial assistance probably helped win passage of the bill. It remains to be seen what, if anything, Nature Conservancy expects in return for this help.

#### **New Business:**

Notice of a Land Management/Stewardship forum sponsored by the CT Audubon Society and hosted by the Goshen Conservation Commission, to be held at the Goshen Town Hall on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM was given at the meeting and posted on our web site. Council President, Chris Marino to represent the Goshen Conservation Commission as a member of the forum panel. Panel members to include representatives from: CT Audubon, Nature Conservancy, Aquarion Water Co., Torrington Water Co., Great Mountain Forest, Northeast Utility and DEP. Council members were encouraged to attend and show sportsman interest. This forum is the first of several that will be held throughout the state and will set the tone for the practices to be implemented. Goshen was selected to host

the first forum because the CT Audubon is about to embark on a major management effort on their 700-acre, Croft Nature Preserve located on the east side of East Street, North in Goshen.

Jason reported on the CT State Conservation motor vehicle license plates. Two plates are now available through the MVD. There is a Bald Eagle plate and a Bobcat plate. Funds raised from the sale of these plates will be used as matching funds to leverage federal funds that are available to the state.

Draft letter to the Pheasant Program Coordinator; Mark Clavette was reviewed by the delegates. This letter outlines our comments and observations of the 2003-stocking season and makes recommendations for program improvements for 2004. The pheasant-stocking program has been an important issue for sportsmen over the past several years as we recognize the steady decline of hunter participation. We all know that there is a problem and we have advocated major program changes in the past. 2004 will be a critical year for program change opportunity. The extra funds raised from last years license and tag fee increase present an opportunity for the agency to institute the needed changes. Our letter will urge meaningful change to reverse the decline in participation.

#### **Good of the Organization:**

Council Picnic: We should consider an outing at a local club with invitations to the members of the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. We are looking to hold the outing sometime this fall. Mike Fusco suggested we hold it on a Saturday to accommodate the attending public. Tentative date, August 28<sup>th</sup>. If we can get Torrington F&G, we will be able to host a fairly large crowd. Jim to check on availability. We can print our own tickets. Objectives: Good time for members; support political agenda, skeet shooting, exposure etc.

The June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of NWCSC will be held at the home of Jim Fedorich. Jim has offered to do a cookout for those attending. Jim will start the grill at 7PM.

Directions: Head east up East Main St., in Torrington. Look for the new Subway Submarine Shop about halfway up the hill on your left. Take left onto Tioga Street just past the Sub Shop and follow to end. Jim's house is a white ranch. It is the last house on the left. A short meeting will follow cookout.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:40PM**