

Minutes of January 22 2007 Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday February 26, 2007 at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York.

1. Pledge to the Flag:

Niagara County Federation of Conservation Club January 2007 Meeting held on the 22nd. Called to order at 7:00p.m. by President John Butcher at the 4-H Bldg., Lockport, New York with the Pledge to the Flag.

2. Reception of Guest: None

3. Minutes:

The December 2006 minutes taken at the Christmas Party on Wednesday December 13, 2006, will be mailed out with the January minutes.

4. Roll call of clubs and directors:

Sheets were passed around and signed by the delegates.

5. Financial Report: *Gordon Botting Sr.*

Motion to accept the financial report presented by Gordon Dotting Sr. was made by Chris Schotz, 2nd by Walter Kanouff, carried.

6. Communications:

A. Bills: No Report.

B. Notices: Letter from:

- 1) Francine DelMonte-NYS Assembly, NYSDEC hosting the first public comment meeting of the draft sports fishing.
- 2) Jay Rusnock-NRA Foundation, letter highlights the fact that the federation trailer is going to be featured in an upcoming article in the Traditions Magazine.
- 3) Sandy Flkin-NRA Foundation Grant Program letter, we received \$1800 towards the youth shooting sports program.
- 4) Greg Tessmann-Niagara County Soil & Water letter, a plaque will be placed at Victor Fitchlee Park for Don Bronson

- 5) Joe Foltz-Niagara County Attorney's Office letter, our paper work came in for the \$5000 grant funding.
- 6) Glen Adams-Genesee County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs letter, John White game farm.
- 7) Rushford Camps letter-about kids to be signed up.

C. Sick Call: A Moment of Science was held in memory of Don Bronson.

7. Committee Reports:

A. Finance and Audit: *John Butcher*

- 1) John Butcher reported that he has prepared a financial report for the Niagara County Legislature. The

report details how we spent our 2006 funds. Gordon Botting Sr has volunteered to deliver the report to the Niagara County Attorneys Office.

- 2) John has all the treasurer's reports for 2006. He will schedule an appointment with our bookkeeper in order to have the data entered into quick books so that we have year end reports for: filing taxes, preparing budgets, and applying for future grants. The 2006 financial statements should be available for officer and delegates by the February meeting.

B. Fundraising:

- 1) Patches: *Gordon Bolting Sr* .2007 Patches are available and are for sale at a price of \$3.50.
- 2) Knives: *Chris Schotz, Gordon Bolting Sr* .2007 Case knives are available. Any club that would like a knife for an upcoming fundraising event should contact Treasurer Gordon Botting Sr.
- 3) Grants: *John Butcher* .John Butcher reported that our grant request for shooting sports has been approved by the NRA Foundation. We applied for \$3000.00 and we were approved for \$1800.00
- 4) Don Bronson Memorial Fund: *Larry Koch, Greg Tessmann* .Don Bronson requested that donations be made to the NCFCC in-lieu of flowers. To date we have received \$700. if any club or individual would like donate funds in Don's name it's still not too late; please make checks payable to the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs and mark them for the Donald Bronson Memorial Fund. There is a group of people that would like to have a memorial plaque made in Don's name and have it placed at Victor Fitchlee Park in Gasport, New York. Greg Tessmann has drafted a letter in support for of this project. A motion was made by Chris Schotz, 2nd by Matt Zarnosky, carried to submit letter drafted by Greg Tessmann. John Butcher will contact Greg and ask him to oversee this committee.
- 5) Ads Newsletter: *John Butcher* .We still have openings and need ads to fill the monthly newsletter. Ads help offset the cost of our printing. The more ads we sell the less money that comes out of NCFCC general fund. Thus more funds will be available for youth and habitat projects.

C. Public Relations: *Bill Hilts Jr*

- 1) John Butcher reported that he has received an email from Jay Rusnock, field representative for Up State NY FNRA. Mr. Rusnock has informed John that the NCFCC Mobile Air Rifle Range has been selected, as one of the premiere projects in the United States made possible with NRA Foundation grant monies. The project will be hi-lighted in an upcoming issue of Traditions Magazine.
- 2) Special thanks to Bill Hilts Jr for the article he wrote in memory of Don Bronson.

D. Rosters: *John Butcher*

December and January are election months for most of our clubs. If your club had a change in officers please get updated rosters to John ASAP so that the new officers receive the minutes. Also please include: Youth Leaders, Hunter Education Instructors, and Board Members.

E. Small Game: *Chris Schotz*

- 1) Applications are out for the young pheasant release program, don't forget to fill them out and mail them in.
- 2) Day-old Pheasant Chick Program applications can be obtained from the DEC Regional Wildlife Offices.
- 3) Grouse and snowshoe hare seasons are open. The Snowshoe hares are in their white phase now.

F. Big Game: *Dale Dunkelberger*

No report, we are waiting for reports from the DEC.

G. Water Fowl: Will need to find a volunteer to replace Don Bronson. Anyone interested in the position please contact John Butcher at 716-434-7176.

H. Hunter Safety: *Gary Lowe, Dave Lavery, Dale Dunkelberger, Larry Koch*

- 1) Dale Dunkelberger
 - a) A motion was made by Dale Dunkelberger, 2nd Chris Schotz, carried that the Federation picks up the cost of the lunches for the hunter safety instructors refresher course at the Tonawanda Sportsmen Club. Price not to exceed \$125.
 - b) Anyone with hunter safety courses please get your schedules into Dave Lavery.
 - c) Dale attended a hunter education workshop at Ballston Spa. Hunting incidences this year tied our record low. In all cases the firearm related stuff was what we bring up in hunter education classes.
 - d) We are still waiting for Eliot Spitzer to appoint a new DEC Commissioner.
 - e) Harold Palmer president of the NYSCC council had a meeting with Eliot Spitzer and the governor will sign Al 284/A773 the Youth Mentor Hunting Program if it comes across his desk.
- 2) Herb Leaderhouse announced if anyone is teaching a hunter education course the facilities are available at Buckeye Scents Farm 4202 Willow Rd., Wilson.

I. Sport Fishing: *Paul Jackwn, Joe Wilczewski*

- 1) Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte (D-Lewiston) announced the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will hold a public hearing at Lewiston-Porter High School on February 15, 2007 to discuss the distribution of the \$12 million settlement from Occidental Chemical Corporation to improve fishing along Lake Ontario and its tributaries, including the Niagara River. Fishermen are encouraged to attend the meeting and comment on how the DEC's plans to improve fishing in our area.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Hearing
February 15, 2007
Lewiston-Porter High School Auditorium
4061 Creek Road, Lewiston
7:00 PM

J. Habitat: *Chris Schotz & David Whitt*

- 1) Chris reminded everyone that there are grants available if you want to improve the habitat on your property.
- 2) Chris reminded all delegates we have a no-till grain drill for planting warm season grasses. If you have a piece of property that you would like to have planted, contact Mark Sider at Niagara County Soil Water at 716-434-4949.
- 3) Dave announced Habitat Day will be February 10, 2007 at the Wilson Conservation Club. The cost is 20 dollars. Call Dave Whitt at 716-754-2133.

K.C.F.A.B.: *John Long Sr., Bill Hilts Sr.* No Report

L. Region 9 Fish and Wild Life Board: *Greg Tessmann*

The DEC access at Rapids Road for soft launch is completed on the Tonawanda Creek. Also the Niagara County Soil and Water District has received the Grant from the USF&W Service for 200 acres of Native grass seedlings in Niagara County.

M. NYS Conservation Council: *Dale Dunkelberger, Chris Schotz* .No Report

N. S.C.O.P.E.: *William Mudge*

- 1) **Bill** passed around a copy of SCOPE's 2006 Legislative Report. The highlighted bills need to be watched or are on the move. New information is in red. If a bill comes out of a committee we oppose and goes to the floor we send out alerts to members.
- 2) If you go to our website www.SCOPEny.org you can download a PDF file of bills we are reviewing. The site is updated weekly. Go to web page:

http://scopeny.org/A_RCHI_YES/SCOPE_LegislativeReport.pdf

0. Youth Programs:

1) Mobile Air Rifle Range: *Gordon Botting Sr.*

- a) Gordon Botting Sr. reported that the trailer has been taken to a cabinetmaker in-order to have the cabinets fabricated into the trailer.
- b) Paul Jackson reported that the Boat Show is scheduled for January 25th & 26 but was unable to get the NCFCC a prime location for the boat show.

2) Youth Mentor Clays League: *Bryan Meahl, Doug Thompson*

John Butcher reported that he would like to form a committee to help run a youth league for shotgun shooting. The league will be funded by the NRA grant. The grant was written to fund range fees and ammunition for youths age 12-17 years of age. We will be shooting sporting clays. North Forest Rod & Gun Club has offered their field to us at 50% the cost of a round; a round of 50 is \$10.00/round. Bryan Meahl and Doug Thompson have offered to help run the program. Anyone that would like to volunteer with this committee should contact John Butcher at 434-7176.

3) Pheasant Program: *Bob Glidden, Greg Tessmann*

John Butcher reported that he has reviewed the donations made to the NCFCC for the pheasant program; we have \$1,000.00 in restricted funds allocated for this program. He will contact Bob Glidden and make arrangements to get him the funds, Bob contacted John last fall and requested the funds for the 2007 program.

P. Conservation Education

1) Niagara County Fair: *Open* .No Report

2) Wildlife Festival: *John Butcher, Larry Koch* .No Report

3) 5th & 6th Grade Environmental Field Days: *Bob Kerns, Greg Tessmann* .No Report

4) DEC Youth Camp: *Paul Jackson*

Paul has DEC applications for Rushford. The sooner you get them in you are more likely to get the week you want. If you know any kids 12 to 14 that want to go to Rushford, get the names into Paul.

5) Wheatfield Annual Picnic: *Larry Koch* .No Report

Q. Convention: *Walter Kanouff & Matt Zarnosky*

- 1) Walter reported the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet would be at the LaSalle Sportsmen Club on April 14, 2007. If you have time, volunteer to help on the committee or just help with things on the day of the banquet.

- 2) Matt requested each club to donate a basket to raffle.
- 3) John has Award Nomination forms available. He requested all delegates to take them back to their clubs and get some nominations for awards next year. Look for someone that is doing a great job.

R. Annual Picnic: *Tammy Thrush & Chris Schotz* .No Report

8. Application for Membership:

Motion made by Chris Schotz, 2nd by Gordon Dotting that the treasurer send out in the month of January an invoice stating all dues are to be paid by March 1st.

9. Old Business:

- A. John Butcher reported that he has filled out the Application for the D & O Insurance Policy and has mailed it to John Long Jr. at United Insurance.
- B. Chris Schotz reported the Western New York Environmental Federation Meeting is this Sunday January 28, 2007 1:00pm at Hoak's Restaurant .S4100 Lakeshore Road .Hamburg, NY. Anyone can attend and you will get an up to date DEC report.
- C. The oversight committee for the no-till grain drill consists of Dave Whitt of Pheasants Forever, Herb Leaderhouse of NWTF, and Dale Dunkelberger of the NCFCC. Dale Dunkelberger will check with Mark Sider at Niagara County Soil Water and get a list of what money has been collected for the use of the no-till grain drill for the oversight committee. Information is needed for follow reports to their national organizations.
- D. Paul Jackson reported about a year ago we talked about tee-shirts for the federation. John Butcher will come up with some designs for federation tee-shirts for our next meeting, now that we have up coming events to sell them at.

10. New Business:

- A. Chris Schotz mentioned we have a bear mount in storage that has not been used since we setup a tent at the Niagara County Fair. Dave Whitt will check with the Fort Niagara Nature Center to see if they will take it on loan. That way we can get it back if we want to use it for the Niagara County Fair.
- B. Bill Hilts Sr. mentioned some states are banning in-line muzzleloaders during muzzleloader seasons. Among the states with bans are Idaho, Colorado and Washington.
- C. Bill Hilts Sr. announced there will be a Wild Game Dinner for benefit of the Spina Bifida Association Sunday February 18, 2007 from 12:00 Noon On, at the Buffalo Launch Club on Grand Island. Tickets are \$25.

11. For the Good of the Federation:

A. WNY Friends of the NRA: *John Butcher*

John reported they are going to have their banquet March 24, 2007 at Samuels Grand Manor. We are having Mr. Ron Schmeits NRA 2nd Vice President as a guest speaker. It is turning into another record banquet. We are returning \$19,000 in grant money for the 2006 Grant year. We are asking people that attend the banquet to donate a half hour in time to run a game. If you would like to help please contact John at 716 434-7176

B. Iroquois Arms Collectors: *William Mudge*

The IACA had a very successful gun show January 14-15, 2007. Our next meeting will be February 14, 2007 at the AM VETS Post 26 on 600 Ward Road in North Tonawanda at 8:00 p.m.

C. Niagara County Trappers: *Wayne Snell*

The Maine Humane Society is using the endangered species act to try limiting trapping and hunting. By trapping you might catch an eagle by hunting you might shoot an eagle.

D. Niagara County Gobblers Chapter NWTF: Herb Leaderhouse

The DEC is still looking for wild turkeys to band. If you have any on your property call Connie Adams @851-7000.

E. Niagara River Anglers Association: Paul Jackson

1)

The Anglers will have their trout pond setup at the Niagara Falls Boat show from Wednesday January 24, 2007 until Sunday January 28, 2007. They can always use a volunteer anytime you want to show up.

- 2) There is a meeting on the 28th of all pen project coordinators in Avon New York.
- 3) The Anglers will be having a steelhead contest 2/17/2007 at the Lewiston sand docks.
- 4) The anglers will have a Game dinner and raffle on April 1 4~ from noon to 5:00pm. The tickets are \$20 each. This will be before the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet.

F. SCOPE: J~flliam Mudge

Bill reported their next meeting is October 18, 2006 at the American Legion Post 410, 42 Niagara Street in Lockport at 7:00 p.m. everyone is welcome to attend as his guest.

G. Tonawanda Sportsmen Club: EdBelbas

Bill Hilts reported Ed Belbas called him and he is sick. He asked Bill to announce the Tonawanda Sportsmen's Club is having St. Valentines Day Sporting Clay's Shoot on February 11, 2007. The fee is \$25. Registration is at 9:00 am and the shoot at 10:00 am.

H. The North American Bear Foundation: Bill Hilts

Bill announced that the North American Bear Foundation will be holding a fundraising banquet Tuesday February 27, 2007 for their Second Annual Wild Game Dinner. It will be held at the Niagara Falls Conference Center. The menu will be bear, venison, turkey, duck, goose, buffalo, etc. There will be auctions; raffles and the Grand Prize Drawing will be a Minnesota bear hunt in September 2007. Ticket Donation will be 30 dollars, which will include membership in NABF. Call Bill Hilts @731-9984.

12. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn, Dale Shank, 2nd Gordon Botting, carried.

Respectfully submitted,
William A. Mudge

Secretary, NCFCC

For information about the NCFCC including minutes, and upcoming events check us out at:

www.outdoorsniagara.com