

CONNECTICUT TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2014

The meeting held at Bristol Fish and Game was called to order by President Minervini at 7:05 p.m. Two letters of Delegate appointment had been received by Secretary Pittera. One on behalf of Andover Fish and Game dated January 12, 2014 designating Keven Cloutier to replace Joe Stajduhar and the other on behalf of Hamden Fish and Game dated January 16, 2014 designating Gabe Lupo and Joe Celotto as representative Delegates. President Minervini stated that the Hamden Fish and Game Protective Association was returning as a member club of the CTA. On June 9th President Minervini and Delegate Giaquinto gave a presentation to Hamden's Executive Board and they stated then that they wished to return and according to the By Laws a motion, second and vote would be in order.

Delegate Giaquinto motioned to reinstate and seat Hamden into the CTA and a second was given by Delegate Nicoletti. All were in favor. President Minervini stated that there will be an ad in the program book welcoming them back as well as obtaining all of the information, i.e., directions, program details etc., for the website. They will hold a registered shoot on June 8, 2014.

Upon inquiry of the status of Guilford, President Minervini stated that Guilford is still a member in good standing with the CTA. He had contacted Delegate Fasano who stated that they were unable to hold registered shoots this year due to time commitments.

Roll Call and Seating of the Delegates

Andover	Kevin Cloutier\Arnie Cohen not present
Bristol	Richard Lindboe\Tim Nicoletti
Fairfield County	Joe Cimino\Alex Shook
Fin Fur Feather	Bob Hruskocy\Dan Gutt not present
Guilford	Ben Giaquinto\Mario Fasano not present
Hartford	Joe Wheeler\Frank Blish
Pahquioque	Rich DeSerio\Ted Richards not present
Wolcott	Bill Boudreau\Frank Morton
Hamden	Gabe Lupo\Joe Celotto not present
Delegates at Large	Ron Kulmann\John Russo Jr. not present

President Minervini welcomed Hamden and Delegate Cloutier who would be filling the Delegate seat for Joe Stajduhar from Andover.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Treasurer Farber motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes and a second was given by Vice President Ross. President Minervini addressed the importance of the Delegates reading the minutes thoroughly when received as this is the official record of the meetings.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Treasurers Report

As of today we are in good financial status. There is \$38,900.00 in cash in the account and \$450.00 in receivables from program advertising. Four and a quarter pages have been billed and one and a quarter pages have been collected. In the past, billing and collections have been after the State shoot and well into summer. Treasurer Farber would like to bill and receive payment before the State Shoot, so please submit your billing information as soon as possible. The ATA Rebate this year is \$2488.00. Last year it was \$2628.00.

Treasurer Farber has ordered the pins for the State Shoot and they will be green with a silver boarder. He will confirm an order of 400. A motion to accept the Treasurer Report was given by Delegate Giaquinto and second by Delegate Lupo.

Vice President

Vice President Ross confirmed with each of the club Delegates as to whether their clubs will be placing ads in the Program Book. Andover Delegate Cloutier will check with his Executive Board and Guilford Delegate Giaquinto stated that they will pass. All other clubs were confirmed.

Secretary Report

Secretary Pittera spoke to the Delegates concerning a complementary ad for the program book for the ATA EZ GO Golf Cart Raffle. This is a fundraiser where proceeds go to the ATA Gun Club Fund. This fund has benefitted clubs hit hard by natural disasters and is also used in clubs applying for grant money to expand programs and equipment. It was decided to include the ad in the program book.

President Report

President Minervini stated that he had the bio and picture for this year's State Shoot Honoree Jim Garafalo for the program book. Mr. Garafalo will be present at the shoot to accept the award. President Minervini asked Hall of Fame Chairman Hale to give an update on the upcoming banquet.

Chairman Hale reported that the banquet will be held on March 15th. Bristol Fish and Game will be the location with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Special recognition honor awards to be celebrated with North Atlantic Sportsman and Fred Farber as well as special recognition to Bristol Fish and Game for all of their assistance to the CTA. This year's Hall of Fame Inductee is Joe Wheeler. Ticket prices are \$25.00 and \$35.00 per couple. Invitations will be sent out to Connecticut shooters who shot five hundred targets, however if you know of anyone who wishes to attend just copy the invitation and have the person send it in. They are more than welcome.

President Minervini had been in contact with the caterer for the State Shoot who had asked if he could change the menu from chicken to pork loin. He had some problems with the grills last year and he could prepare the pork ahead of time. President Minervini felt that the chicken was a popular choice and that the caterer should have his grills in order. The discussion that followed was whether there was a need to increase the amount of chickens prepared. Treasurer Farber will check the invoice from last year. It was decided to give a count the Monday or Tuesday before the shoot when the weather forecast is known.

ATA Delegate Report

ATA Delegate Latouf read off the High Average winners and the State Team winners. Delegate Latouf read a letter from the ATA concerning a \$20.00 ATA Gun Club Fund Purse to be offered at the State Shoot. The proceeds to benefit the ATA Gun Club Fund. The merits of this were discussed and President Minervini asked for a motion to accept which was given by Delegate Lupo and seconded by Delegate Wheeler. All were in favor and the motion carried. Delegate Latouf will clarify on how the purse is to be distributed and written in the program book.

In an effort to promote shooting Delegate Latouf announced the donation of two trophies to each gun club to be used at a shoot of the clubs discretion. Delegate Latouf will donate a Delegates trophy to be awarded as a combination Singles and Handicap High Gun Award and Delegate Joe Cimino will donate a North Atlantic Sportsman Novice Trophy to be awarded to the High Novice shooter.

There was discussion about the small amount of Junior participation and many ideas were brought forth and debated such as lowering the target requirement for Juniors. As it stands, Connecticut's target requirement is already lower than the ATA's or other states. A motion was made by Delegate Boudreau to keep the target requirements for Juniors as it is now and seconded by Delegate Giaquinto.

Delegate Lupo inquired about running marathon shoots. In the discussion, Chairman Hale stated that the CTA Fee is waived Monday through Thursday. Only the Daily ATA Fee is paid on the first hundred targets. As some Delegates were not aware of this, President Minervini requested Secretary Pittera to look back in the meeting minutes for that motion and what was passed. It was also noted that the first 200 of a handicap marathon is considered for reduction. The rules pertaining to yardage increases (Punches) still apply on accumulated targets.

President Minervini inquired of ATA Delegate Latouf as to what was the cause of the delay in reporting the High Averages and State Team. Delegate Latouf said that the delay was with him impart due to Connecticut having lower target requirements than the ATA, therefore making it necessary to go through the lists of shooters to find who shot the required targets and calculate their averages.

New Business

Delegate Giaquinto proposed to make an addendum to the By Laws that would permit voting electronically on matters if a delegate chooses to do so and in some way notify the President and Secretary, to call in when meetings are in session instead of giving two votes to one present Delegate. President Minervini stated that the proposal would require a By Law change as the By Laws currently state that an attending Delegate will have two votes if the other representing club Delegate is absent. The By Laws do not speak to electronic voting as they were written prior to such existence. Delegate Giaquinto gave the example of using something like "Go to Meeting". Points were made concerning audio quality and confusion and the like. The importance of open discussion and the process of "flushing out" an issue before a vote takes place was strongly noted by Vice President Ross, Delegate Boudreau and President Minervini. Delegate DeSerio and Delegate Nicoletti suggested that this could be limited to the election of officers. Delegate DeSerio made the point of how would you take nominations from the floor. Delegate Nicoletti also suggested that if a Delegate was not present, he could not vote. President Minervini stated that there are three meetings a year and perhaps this would be more suited in a situation where an issue comes up in between meetings that needs to be addressed and voted on and this could be done by email. The merit of looking into updating the By Laws was stated and President Minervini agreed that the By Laws were ambiguous at best and need work. There were pros and cons to the proposal. He suggested that the addendum be tabled for now and he would appoint a committee to look into the issues and bring back proposals to update the By Laws. It was also suggested to have an attorney look at them. A copy of the By Laws will be sent out to the Delegates.

PreSquad Committee

Delegate DeSerio will be handling the presquadding for the State Shoot again this year as Joe Stajduhar has resigned. President Minervini asked for someone to volunteer to replace former Delegate Stajduhar as this committee should have two people to rotate each year and also serve as a backup in case the other is unable to be there. Delegate DeSerio asked for the trophy winners of the six events from last year to aid in filling out the paper work for Pre Squad.com.

Old Business

At the last meeting there was discussion to increase the added money. The committee of President Minervini, Vice President Ross, Treasurer Farber and Delegate DeSerio made the following recommendations in added money for the 2014 Connecticut State Shoot:

The \$1500 Resident added money to increase to \$2000.00. The same rules will apply. You need to shoot all 500 targets and it will be based on the high average in classes AA, A, B, C and D. Category declarations do not affect eligibility. Events 4, 5 & 6 all went up by a \$100. The Event 4 Champion Singles increases to \$700.00., Event 5 Champion Doubles to \$450.00 and Event 6 Champion Handicap to \$700.00. There will be **Non Resident** added money this year. In Event 4, the amount of \$450 to Champion, Runner up and 5 classes. In Event 6, the amount of \$550 to Champion, Runner up and 3rd thru 6th.

At the last meeting Delegate Hruskocy and Delegate Cimino approached President Minervini at different times bringing to mind the upcoming Centennial Shoot in 2016. Delegate Cimino brought forth the idea to take \$3000.00 a year - this year, next year and the year after, which is the Centennial year, for a total of \$9000.00 in preparation for the noteworthy anniversary. President Minervini felt there should be monies set aside in preparation for the shoot and thought it to be a good idea. The money should be put in a separate account and held for use at the discretion of the Officers and Delegates in office preparing for the 100th Anniversary shoot. This would not impact the current budget. Delegate Boudreau made a motion to accept the recommendations of the committee and Delegate DeSerio gave a second. Upon discussion, Treasurer Farber suggested using the CD currently held and coming due January 2015 designating that money for the Centennial. After further discussion, it was decided that it would be better to budget the funds by the \$3000.00 a year. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Delegate DeSerio inquired for the purposes of PreSquad.Com if the same number of banks will be utilized this year. Delegate Blish made mention of increased interest for the State Shoot in an already maxed out event. Debate over opening an additional bank was discussed and it was agreed to keep the number of banks the same. This conversation brought about the dilemma of squad tickets not picked up resulting in loss of revenue as "walk ins" are standing by that could utilize the unclaimed tickets. Delegates discussed the many scenarios that could come about as to why tickets may not be picked up and in an effort to be reasonable and fair to all parties decided to state in the Program Book, Website and on PreSquad.com that tickets must be picked up by 9:00 a.m. or the tickets for that day's events would be put back out for use. Delegate DeSerio would post his cell number as a contact in the event of an unforeseen problem where by a shooter could call in to notify him of their status, therefore holding tickets on later events. Classification and ticket pick up will be open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 19th and should be included in the Program Book and website.

Program Book

Delegate Hruskocy asked for a color for the cover on the Program Book and the choice was red. He asked for the Delegates cooperation in proof reading their club ads. Those responsible for recurring and current ads were confirmed. Delegate Cimino confirmed that the Browning BPS is available this year and book should reflect the new law for taking possession. Shooter must comply by Federal and State laws to accept possession. Delegate Hruskocy needs in digital form the following: Delegate\Officer change updates, Shoot date changes, Added money changes, State High averages and Team list, Winners from last year, General shoot information and Classification, and PreSquad.Com wording. President Minervini was given a suggestion by a shooter to post a link on the website for those interested in placing an ad in the book. Delegate Hruskocy will do that with his contact information and decide a deadline date. Delegate Shook inquired if the National Shooting Sports Foundation had been contacted yet this year. President Minervini and Delegate Giaquinto will make a plan to do so.

State Shoot

Chairman Hale inquired as to what would be the charge for targets this year at the State Shoot. The amount charged was \$29.00 last year and most are at \$30.00 or more. It was decided by vote to increase to \$30.00. Delegate DeSerio stated that last year the cost of targets was at \$28.00 for shoots at the club level. It was agreed to keep the cost the same for this year with the exception of Andover who would be at \$30.00 due to labor costs.

President Minervini reminded that he wanted the welcome ad in the Program Book for Hamden. He asked Delegate Lupu if he could put together directions and give them to Delegate Giaquinto.

Delegate DeSerio asked if the Association was going to do the T shirts again this year. A profit of about \$800.00 was made and it was decided to do them again this year. Delegate DeSerio asked for a volunteer to sell them at a table. Delegate Shook volunteered.

President Minervini received an email from Phil Sylvestro asking for an amendment to the By Laws preventing a club from hosting a shoot on Sunday if a club has a shoot scheduled for Saturday of the same weekend as it can hurt attendance. The By Laws do not contain anything pertaining to this matter, therefore, no such amendment can be made. President Minervini stated that the CTA should not get involved in decisions pertaining to the choosing of available dates for holding a registered shoot. Delegate Lindboe spoke to the issues that arise from two clubs shooting back to back and in the case of Bristol, which can only shoot on a Saturday, it is difficult to go up against a Club who utilizes the Sunday of the same weekend. President Minervini suggested that what should happen is you make a gentlemen's agreement with someone in the other club or if you pick that date and if it doesn't work out, you don't pick it again. Every club should have the right to pick an open date or not. When to hold a shoot is the decision of the individual Club Board and Delegates. President Minervini stated that the CTA is in the business of running the State Shoot, making sure the ATA rules are followed, and dealing with any problems with shooters.

Having no further business, President Minervini called for a motion to adjourn. Treasurer Farber so moved and Delegate DeSerio gave the second. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Cheryll Pittera
CTA Secretary