



## Minutes-Fin Fur & Feather Club-Meeting 3/7/2021

The regular monthly meeting was held on March 7, 2021 with President Mike Shanko Jr presiding.

**Roll Call** 29-Active 9-Life 38-Total 4-Excused

**Assessments:** -.

### Reports of Committees

**Banquet:** - Hopefully next year.

**Beef & Beer:** - June 19th.

**Building & Grounds:** - Grass is starting to grow, have one opening on committee. Getting the riding mower tuned up.

**Deer Hunt:** -.

**Ducks Unlimited:** -

**Fishing/Outing:** - Trout Day is on.....April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Membership/Welfare:** - 3 people have been interviewed, need to vote on applications and if accepted need to vote on probationary membership.

**Small Game:** - Last stocking of season was yesterday, held circle shoot. You can still hunt till this coming weekend. Bill and Craig do not want to chair or cochair committee again next season. Bill will work with whoever takes it over to help them get started. Will need to contact bird guy to give him information as to what we plan on doing next season.

**Special Events:** - Waiting to see what happens with Covid.

**Stewards:** - New stickers are in, also hats and shirts for sale.

**Trustees:** - Work day March 13<sup>th</sup>, will be doing wood on the point, need chainsaws, wood splitters, quads. Trustee have retained a lawyer on the club's behalf for the issues with the dam. Ben has been working long and hard on this issue. Finding a lawyer that would even touch this issue has been a project in itself. Ben had high hopes on one lawyer that had represented another dam case here in NJ only to be told that he nor the firm would ever touch another dam case again. Right now, we (the club) and the county are being pressured very hard by the DEP with underlying threats of fines if we do not start taking actions. The county wants the club to pay 50% of the costs involved which could easily top a million dollars. We have some title information and believe we do not own the dam. Unfortunately, the changes to the safe dam act (SDA) back in 1981 and a court case (Cobb Dam and Lake which is the case the lawyer Ben had hoped to get worked on) produced a definition of dam owner as follows. The SDA compels compliance from "[a]n owner or person having control of a reservoir or dam." N.J.S.A. 58:4-5(a)(emphasis added). A common-sense reading of this language indicates there are four classes of people who are subject to the statute: (1) dam owners; (2) reservoir owners; (3) those who control the dam; and (4) those who control the reservoir. It follows that if a party fits into any one of those categories, the commissioner may seek enforcement of the SDA against that person. In that case it was ruled ownership 65% county, 25% Cobb, 10% township. Ben stated that the way DEP and the county have acted everyone is well aware of that court case. At this point we have told the county no to 50%, and have agreed to meet again with them at a date later on this month. Right now, there are 5 options to look at.

1. Repair the dam
2. Repair the dam with a \$ cap
3. Sell property to offset cost
4. Decommission the dam
5. Fight

Decommissioning the dam may be the cheapest route, but there are many things that might be involved and questions as to who would be responsible.

If we fight, the lawyer thinks we would still lose.

Moving forward, the trustees asked for the bylaws to be read on “buying and selling land” which states a vote with 4/5 approval is needed from all active members, not just those in attendance and states said proceeds from the sale must be used to purchase another sportsman’s site. After much discussion it was made known from the floor that everyone is very appreciative of what the trustees have been doing in this matter, and understand and have full trust in them to do what is going to be necessary and financially the best path moving forward. The trustees will be bringing the lawyer into the meeting with the county, they do not know at this point that we have retained one. Again, the issue is the dam has been listed as hazardous and is on the top of the DEP list, and the DEP does not care who pays what, they just want it taken care of. There is no straight forward answer on what would be the cheapest path including selling the lake or even giving the lake or part of, and or easements as the spillway on pond side can still be part of the issue. A motion was made to allow the trustees to go to the meeting and act in the best interest of the club. Approved. Thank You again to the trustees for the time and effort that they have put into this issue. Link Appellate Division clarified who may be considered an “owner” of a dam for the purposed of compliance under the Safe Dam Act (“SDA”). <https://scarincilawyer.com/nj-appeals-court-clarities-reach-safe-dam-act/>

**Communication and Bills** - Letters of excuse were read from Jonathan Scheid, John Raimondi, Jason Dion, and Paul Pullen. All were accepted. Letters of resignation were received from Mark Offermann Sr., and Pete Smith dated Jan 1st, but were unable to be read till now due to cancelled meeting. Both were accepted. Applications were received from Tim Stillwell, Accepted, Mathew Mezger, Accepted, Alfred P. Letts, Accepted, and Thomas Hetzler Jr. Accepted  
-A motion was made, seconded and approved to pay the bills totaling \$3633.77.

### **Installation of New Members**

A motion was made, seconded and approved to open the ballot box to vote on Tim Stillwell for probationary membership. The ballot box was found acceptable. –

A motion was made, seconded and approved to open the ballot box to vote on Mathew Mezger for probationary membership. The ballot box was found acceptable.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to open the ballot box to vote on Alfred P. Letts for probationary membership. The ballot box was found acceptable.

### **Unfinished Business**

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### **New Business**

**Good of the Order**

Mike Barron brought up that there is still a lot of deer meat in the freezer and we should use it up and also give it away before it goes bad.

Dennis Edwards asked that everyone please go online behind the green door and double check you address, and phone and email address and update it if needed as this is where we get the information for emails, mailings etc.

**Treasurers Report**

Previous Balance	<u>\$27747.69</u>
Receipts	<u>\$6350.00</u>
Transfer from Valley Social	<u>\$0</u>
New Balance	<u>\$34067.69</u>
Disbursements	<u>\$3633.77</u>
Transfer to Valley Social	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
Balance Forward	<u>\$29263.92</u>

Being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dennis Edwards*  
FFF Secretary



2020	Members	Year	3-Jan	20-Jan	7-Feb	17-Feb	7-Mar	17-Mar	4-Apr	21-Apr	2-May	19-May	6-Jun	16-Jun	4-Jul	21-Jul	1-Aug	18-Aug	5-Sep	15-Sep	3-Oct	20-Oct	7-Nov	17-Nov	5-Dec	15-Dec
Frank	Pannick	08	X	X	+	+	+																			
Rick	Pocino	10	X	X	+	+	/																			
Paul	Pullen	04	X	X	+	+	X																			
Tim	Rago	17	X	X	+	+	+																			
John	Raimondi	12	X	X	+	+	X																			
Ryan	Rapos	16	X	X	+	+	+																			
Tom	Ricigliano	13	X	X	+	+	/																			
Leon	Rogers	17	X	X	+	+	+																			
William	Rowland	02	X	X	+	+	+																			
Bill	Russell	13	X	X	+	+	+																			
Matt	Salko	18	X	X	+	+	/																			
Mike	Salko	08	X	X	+	+	+																			
Jonathan	Scheid	02	X	X	+	+	X																			
Bryan	Shanko	10	X	X	+	+	+																			
Mike	Shanko Jr.	12	X	X	+	+	+																			
Mike	Shanko Sr.	02	X	X	+	+	+																			
Daniel	Smith	19	X	X	+	+	+																			
Timothy	Stillwell	21	=	=	=	=	=																			
Richard	Stockton	19	X	X	+	+	+																			
Eric	Suschke	15	X	X	+	+	/																			
Ben	Tartaglia Jr.	09	X	X	+	+	/																			
Ben	Tartaglia III	08	X	X	+	+	+																			
47																										

+ Present

/ Not Present

X Excused

= Resigned/New

@Forfeit

2020	Life Members	Year	3-Jan	20-Jan	7-Feb	17-Feb	7-Mar	17-Mar	4-Apr	21-Apr	2-May	19-May	6-Jun	16-Jun	4-Jul	21-Jul	1-Aug	18-Aug	5-Sep	15-Sep	3-Oct	20-Oct	7-Nov	17-Nov	5-Dec	15-Dec
Ed	Barron		X	X	+	+	+																			
Mike	Barron		X	X	+	+	+																			
Tim	Bliznawics		X	X	+	+	/																			
John	Burick		X	X	+	+	/																			
Dennis	Daly		X	X	+	+	/																			
Ron	DeMarco		X	X	+	+	/																			
Bob	Dill		X	X	+	+	/																			
Kirk	Everett		X	X	+	+	+																			
Don	Fillinger		X	X	+	+	/																			
William	Fiordland		X	X	+	+	+																			
Dick	Green		X	X	+	+	/																			
Barry	Hauser		X	X	+	+	/																			
Jeff	Kramarz		X	X	+	+	+																			
John	Luyber		X	X	+	+	+																			
Bill	Lyden		X	X	+	+	+																			
Mike	Mosier		X	X	+	+	/																			
Werner	Nitschmann III		X	X	+	+	/																			
Chip	Ondrushek		X	X	+	+	/																			
Frank	Ondrushek		X	X	+	+	/																			
Joe	Punk		X	X	+	+	/																			
Andy	Rapos		X	X	+	+	/																			
Jack	Richardson		X	X	+	+	/																			
Ben	Ridolfi		X	X	+	+	/																			
Todd	Schmitt		X	X	+	+	/																			
Victor	Scott		X	X	+	+	/																			
John	Snook		X	X	+	+	+																			
Gene	Stravinsky		X	X	+	+	/																			
Mike	Sulish		X	X	+	+	/																			
Jim	Szeliga		X	X	+	+	+																			
Fred	Warpay		X	X	+	+	/																			
30																										

+ Present / Not Present - Passed Away