

Ashokan – Pepacton Watershed Chapter #559

Trout Unlimited

Chapter Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2019

7:00pm-Meeting called to order.

Chase and **Cole Matteson** spoke enthusiastically about their experiences this past summer at the **De Bruce Camp Program** that was sponsored by our chapter. Additionally they thanked us sincerely for sponsoring them.

Announcements & New Business

Mark L. announced that the **Catskill Mountain Chapter of TU** was holding their **Annual Banquet** at the **Stonehedge Restaurant** on 9W in **West Park, NY** on **November 2** at **6pm**.

It was mentioned that on **Saturday the October 26th** **Ed and Judy Van Put** would give a talk accompanied by slides entitled **Artists that Fished** (mostly **Hudson River School** artists)at the **Phoenicia Library** from **1-3pm**.

It was announced that the **NYS DEC** would be having a **public meeting** regarding proposed **new trout stream management and fishing regulations** on **November 4th** in **Newburgh, NY**.

Mark L. announced that **West Point Cadet Pierce** had written to thank participating APWC members for guiding them at the recent outing. It was noted that the event had been a tremendous success.

Tony C. mentioned that the **Rondout Neversink Stream Program** was holding their **Annual Anglers Symposium** at the **Claryville Events Center** on **Friday Nov. 01, 2019**.

Mark L. mentioned that the **BOD** had collectively decided its intent **NOT** to **renew membership** with the **Federated Sportsman of Ulster County** because of ethical conflicts that, it was feared, might jeopardize our **Chapter's not for profit (501c) status**. When asked if attending members had **any issues** with that, effectively putting it to a **vote**, there were no objections, **so passed**.

7:40 Meeting adjourned for 15 minutes.

8:00pm Mike Flaherty NYSDEC Region 3 Fisheries Manager presentation

Mike Flaherty's presentation included the following:

- Displaying a list of the **NYS DEC Region 3 Fisheries Staff** and noted that he would be retiring next spring.
- Indicating that **New Regulation Guidelines** were imminent including stocking plans.
- Displaying a section view of the **Shandaken Tunnel Intake Structure** explaining how much of the repairs had been completed and indicated improvements to come. Most notable was a **Flexible Articulating Snorkel** that will enable the **release of water from different depths and correspondingly different temperatures** to better manage **water quality and temperature** in the **Esopus Creek**.
- Noting that with all the work on the portal, Shandaken tunnel and its equipment, **releases** have been on a **weekly go/no go basis** according to observed conditions and when work is finished they can go to a fixed schedule.
- Noting that **1,072 New Brook Trout Streams** (beyond those already known) had been identified and that **approximately 20% of them were wild**.
- Indicating the intent of the **NYSDEC** was to implement a **Statewide Trout Stream Management Plan** that would provide **Wild & Stocked Trout** and **Diversity of Species**. The **goal** being to provide **Fishing Satisfaction** as well as **Habitat Preservation** and/or **Restoration**.
- Noting that **DEC** had observed a **decrease** in fishing pressure on the **Esopus** this past summer as well as **increased trout survival** numbers.

8:40 pm: Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Thom Frankel