

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Conservation Center

Robbinsville, NJ

January 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Fish and Game Council was held on the above date.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Acting Chairman David Burke.

The flag salute and Pledge of Allegiance were completed.

Acting Chairman David Burke read aloud the following notice: In accordance with P.L. 1975, c. 231 notice of this meeting was filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on December 28, 2015 and delivered to the designated newspapers of the Division, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press.

Roll call was taken.

In attendance were: Acting Chairman Burke
Councilwoman Blumig
Councilman Brodhecker
Councilman DeMartino
Councilman Gudmundsson
Councilman Van Mater (late arrival at 12:02 p.m.)
Councilman Link (early departure at 1:20 p.m.)
Councilman DeStephano

Absent: Councilman Conover
Councilwoman Brummer

Division employees included D. Chanda, L. Herrighty, M. Brown, J.S. Cianciulli, D. Golden, A. Ivany, C. Stanko, J. Matthews, L. Barno, D. Jenkins, J. Powers, P. Woerner, D. Ogonofski; B. Stoff

There were numerous members of the public in attendance.

Motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman Link to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting as emailed. Vote taken, 6 were in favor and one abstention due to absenteeism at the December council meeting.

Acting Chairman Burke had a few comments regarding that statewide it has been the warmest December ever, about 10-15 degrees above normal and the deer are remaining nocturnal, however, on the other hand, it has been great striped bass fishing. Fishing was good for catching bluefish. In addition, tuna were being caught 2 to 4 miles off shore. Additionally, Acting Chairman Burke mentioned that there will be a review of 3 applications for Community Based Deer Management Permits. Also being discussed will be the Lease Agreement for Lower Township and there will be a comment period after presentation and before vote is taken.

Director Chanda wished everyone in attendance a Happy New Year. He also advised all that Chief Mark Chicketano has retired and that the new Acting Chief will be Matt Brown and J. Sean Cianciulli will function as the Deputy Chief. Director Chanda briefly spoke about the bear incident that occurred in Rockaway Township.

Acting Chairman Burke provided a public comment period on the agenda items and advised that there will be a limit of 3 minutes on the Community Based Applications for Bernards Township, Princeton Township and Essex County Park System.

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ – She indicated that she is against the 3 applications and feels that 3 minutes to talk about killing of animals is not enough time. She also believes we can co-exist with animals and sterilization of deer can be used.

Janet Pizar, Chatham, NJ – She was questioning Bernards Township being in Somerset County and what deer management zone that township is in. Also, she was wondering if there was any habitat enhancement in nearby wildlife management areas. She then also questioned what deer management zone Princeton Township falls under in Mercer Comment.

There were no other public comments.

In response to the public comments, Acting Chairman Burked indicated all areas are in “decrease” strategy zones. Also, Assistant Director Herrightly indicated that the Community Based Deer Management Program handles deer at the local level and that the Supreme Court ruled that the decisions are made at the local level.

Committee Reports:

Agriculture Committee Report: Councilman Brodhecker indicated that it was warm and wet and they only had a few cold days in the North. He stated that the deer are out at night and they have a lot of food sources. He also stated that there were coyote and turkeys in his area. Councilman Brodhecker spoke about the managing of woodland in his area and that they are now seeing invasive species. Councilman Link spoke to people along the Delaware River in Salem County and in the Pine areas and they indicated that they are all seeing less deer. He encouraged them not to compare the numbers against previous years when deer were more populous. He indicated that he is encouraged by the cold weather for the deer. He also applauded the habitat enhancement forest management plan as he believes you cannot just purchase lands, it needs to be managed. Councilman Link also mentioned about the phragmites, an invasive species, affecting all areas as well. Councilwoman Blumig also informed the Council that the honey bees were active on Christmas Eve.

State Federation Reports:

Councilwoman Blumig informed the Council that she heard concerns about the deer population in Union and Middlesex counties. Also around Christmas, she was informed of issues with purchasing licenses at large retailers. The retailers don't make money selling licenses – they only get \$1 for each license sold. There seems to be a real problem at the Walmart stores with license sales. She was provided the main number for Fish and Wildlife (609) 292-2965 and instructed to have people call that number for answers.

Councilman Gudmundsson indicated that he has not attended any meetings since December. He is receiving inquiries on the Rockaway incident. He also indicated with such nice weather, he is seeing people fishing like crazy and they are commenting about big fish. Councilman Gudmundsson also reported on an oil spill on the Musconetcong River, which appeared to be from a refilling station that was abandoned. A call was made to DEP's Emergency Response team and there was a rapid response. It appears that 5,000 gallons leaked out of these tanks which were supposedly emptied. Councilman Gudmundsson also indicated that South Branch peaked at 9000 cfs.

Councilman DeStephano – Attended the Morris County Trappers Association meeting and attended 3 days at the Deer Classic. He received several inquiries as to where all the deer were, along with questions on the closing of private stocking of trout in the Pequest River. Other than those inquiries, things appeared quiet.

Acting Chairman Burke announced that an “Error Code 8” appeared on the recorder and we needed to stop the meeting until we got the system rebooted. Councilman Gudmundsson assisted Diane Ogonofski in attempting to get the system rebooted. It appeared to be working at 10:32 a.m. and meeting resumed.

Councilman DeMartino – He indicated that he did not attend any meetings, however, he received numerous phone calls regarding the lack of duck and geese and questioned an extension to the duck and goose season due to the warm weather before Christmas. He also spoke to another big club that indicated that they have kept the same number of deer harvested – 13 each year for the past 4 years and this year harvested 19 deer. Councilman DeMartino was questioning if the State has a forester and what the cash value of our hardwood is. In response Chief Golden informed the Council that the State has 2 foresters employed with the Division of Parks and Forestry, 1 in the Northern Region and 1 in the Southern Region of the State, and their focus is on Parks property. Chief Golden advised that the State Forest Service is under new management. Chief Golden also advised him that the Division has no cash value on hardwood. He also informed the Council that the Sparta Mt. WMA Forest Stewardship Plan was just released and is out for public comment. Councilman Brodhecker asked if currently the 13 acre tract of activity is happening now and foresters are to bid on it. Councilman Gudmundsson spoke to a friend regarding the plan for Sparta. Councilman Gudmundsson indicated it would depend on the strategy and it is leaning towards ecological value. Director Chanda responded that the plan is looking for grouse management and other species on WMA. Councilman Link indicated that we have a need for sound timber improvement. He also noted that the government moves at a very slow speed. Assistant Director Herrightly stated that he agrees with Councilman Link and we need to work on plans moving forward. Acting Chairman Burke informed everyone that the Sparta Mt. WMA Forest Stewardship Plan is on the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s website if you wish to review and comment on it.

Councilwomen Blumig received calls complaining that it took 45 minutes to check a deer in. Councilwoman Blumig stated that when hunting in West Virginia, their system only took 8 minutes to check a deer in and maybe we can look into their system. Barbara Stoff reiterated the fact that there were problems with the system and it was with the provider, Active Network, with dialup connections.

Acting Chairman Burke and Councilman Van Mater advised they would be attending a meeting that week as they are held on the second Thursday of the month. At Atlantic County’s December meeting they advised they would be doing a fund raising dinner and Sporting Clay Events. At the Cumberland County December meeting, they were concerned on the field in Peaslee being too high and only areas of pines were cut. Millville thought that the fields were managed for pheasant hunters only. Acting Chairman Burke spoke on Cumberland County’s Big Event scheduled for March 19, 2016 for the Trash Hunt. Acting Chairman Burke indicated this event has a good turnout and there is a lot of trash picked up.

Finance Committee: Councilman Link advised that a meeting was held earlier that day (January 12, 2016). He indicated that there was good news through June 30, 2016 and the account should have a carry forward of \$300,000. He also provided information that the state is close to finalizing two (2) leases and \$700,000 per year should be generated.

Fish Committee: Councilman Gudmundsson advised that they did not meet since the last meeting. The information will, be going out the end of the week of January 11, 2016. Adoption of the Fish Code should be end of February/beginning of March. Councilman Gudmundsson received a question on stocking permits and getting

the permits early. Discussion ensued, in previous years waters not stocked prior to March and he did not know the answer.

Game Committee: Next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2016 at 1 p.m. either at the Conservation Center or the Assunpink Office. Acting Chairman Burke indicated that if there was something that you wished to be discussed to send the information to him electronically via e-mail. The agenda for that day was mostly full and it was going to consist of discussion on pheasants that day.

Legislative Committee: Assistant Director advised that the current session was going to end that day (January 12, 2016). Assistant Director Herrightly discussed the following bills:

A3352 – Establishes “Milkweed for Monarchs” program. Nothing posted.

A3353 – Establishes “Adopt a Monarch Butterfly Waystation” program. Nothing posted.

S939 (Companion Bill A2913) – Designates Black Swallowtail butterfly as State Butterfly. Nothing posted.

S3146 (Companion Bill A4773) – Prohibits possession and transport of certain animals and body parts thereof at PANYNJ airports and port facilities. Council to Veto

ACR250 – Determines that Fish and Game Council’s proposal to allow use of enclosed foothold traps is inconsistent with plan language and legislative intent of 1984 law banning animal traps of steel-jaw leghold type. No activity.

Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee: Dr. Bummer not available. No report given.

Waterfowl Advisory Stamp Committee: No meeting held.

Wildlife Rehabilitators Committee: Nothing to report. Last meeting was canceled and the next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2016.

Division Reports:

Chief Lisa Barno reported for the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries. Chief Barno updated the Council on the progress of the Adoption of the 2016-2017 Fish Code. The initial review of the document was delayed due to a 1,000 page Flood Hazard and Water Quality rules that are being reviewed by the same lawyer. Optimistically, she indicated they are anticipating a first round review to be completed by the end of January. Chief Barno indicated that the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries has three upcoming angler forums. The first is for the north, scheduled for January 30, 2016 at Hackettstown Fish Hatchery; February 19, 2016 at the Batsto Visitor’s Center and the trout meeting on February 27, 2016 at the Pequest Trout Hatchery. At these public forums, the Bureau solicits public input and open discussions for potential regulation changes for the next Fish Code. She indicated that staff will be presenting and soliciting input from anglers on *Wild Trout Stream* regulations. As each regulation cycle takes longer and longer to complete an earlier start is needed for the 2018 Fish Code. For Wild Trout regulations, she anticipates having proposed regulations set by summer and that by the end of November or early December the Bureau would begin drafting recommendations for 2018 Fish Code. Currently, her staff is swamped with meetings for Federal Sport Fish Restoration Grant, trout stocking allocations and schedule, public forums, as well as planning for the upcoming year. She indicated December and January are easily their busiest times of the year. Chief Barno also indicated the Bureau is developing an allocation formula for the Winter and/Fall Trout Stocking Programs. As the winter program was designed to create ice fishing opportunities for trout some lakes stocked as

part of the program no longer allow ice fishing due to liability concerns. These lakes may be moved to the Fall Program to allow anglers three additional weeks to fish these waters. Angler concerns about private stockings being banned on other watersheds besides the Pequest (2016 rule change) were raised to Chief Barno. She has responded that she has indicated to anglers at multiple public venues that the restriction will not be expanded beyond the Pequest drainage. Chief Barno also indicated that due to delays in adoption the release of the 2016 Freshwater Fisheries Digest is delayed until March, 2016.

Chief Jeff Matthews, reported for the Bureau of Fish Production. Chief Matthews provided Council with a solar project update. DEP indicated that they are not going to install the system but will be going out to bid for a power purchase agreement. Their biggest concern is the maintenance of the equipment and the state not being eligible for the 30% tax credit. Chief Matthews is meeting with staff from the Office of Purchase and Property to assist with the bid process, the units will be installed over the raceways. Pequest rainbow trout production stock is on target for the beginning of pre-season stocking beginning on March 21, 2016. An estimated 185,000 trout will be stocked for opening day. Staff is currently working with Office of Information Technology (OIT) to develop a video for fishing license sales. Currently working on developing the script and then will incorporate production and opportunities generated from the Hackettstown facility. Hackettstown staff is currently meeting with college professors for projects that can be done within the hatchery that would be beneficial to both students and the facility. Chief Matthews reported there are no diseases issues at either facility.

Chief Al Ivany reported for the Bureau of Information and Education. Chief Ivany spoke about the Deer Classic which was held from January 7 thru January 10, 2016 in Edison, NJ. He indicated that there were 50 entrants and that the show went well. Other events that Chief Ivany indicated were coming up soon for the division are the Suffern, New York show scheduled for March 10 thru March 13, 2016; Pequest Open House scheduled for April 2 and April 3, 2016 and the 25th Anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament on May 15, 2016. Chief Ivany advised Council that Hunterdon County's Heron Glen Golf Course requested the use of the Track Chairs for a program they run, and that work continues on an overall use plan for the chairs. In addition, Chief Ivany indicated that the Pequest Education Center will be open weekends beginning in April thru the end of October and that Jessica Griglak is scheduling programs for the weekends. He is also looking for program assistance thru the Wildlife Conservation Corp. Councilman Gudmundsson mentioned that we should look at NJ Hunter and NE Fly Fishing sites to add our information to their pages and calendars as it is free. Councilman Gudmundsson requested to be kept in the loop so that he could spread the word.

Chief David Golden reported for the Bureau of Land Management. Chief Golden reported that the improvements to the range at the Makepeace Lake WMA are complete and the range is once again open to the public. The improvements were to increase the back and side berms. Chief Golden spoke about the Round Valley Boat Ramp and the expansion project to increase the size of the parking lot. Kayakers can now access the lake by walking to the left of the ramp; the project should be completed by March. Chief Golden also advised the council that the WMA Survey contract has been fully execute with Stockton State University. The survey will last a full year; post-graduate students will organize the data collection by each region then by season beginning in May, 2016 (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter). The sample will consist of 40 days per season in each region (North, Central and South) and there will be random selections to represent usage. Additional surveys will be carried out on open days, during deer week and other "special" days as identified by staff. There are also going to be postcards that will be put on cars that show up in a parking lot. Council Members requested that Chief Golden send a copy of the questionnaire that is being used. Diane Ogonofski requested a copy of the information for records purposes.

Acting Chief Matt Brown reported for the Bureau of Law Enforcement. Acting Chief Brown provided the Council with updates on personnel issues. Three of our recruits, 2 in Marine and 1 in North will have completed their Field Training Program in early February. In addition, Matt Heyl was hired as a Conservation Officer Recruit for Monmouth County. Also 12 promotions will become effective on January 23, 2016 to backfill command positions. Acting Chief Brown also informed the Council members that there was an oil spill on the Musconetcong

River and there was intrusion into the waterway. He also reported on the 2 eagles affected by eating deer. The eagles were sent to Mercer Wildlife Rehab then to Delaware to be released. Our forensic scientists indicated that there was no ACE in the meat. Staff is currently citing the Animal Control Officer with issues with Eagles and the drug used. In the Southern Region, officers tracked 2 illegal hunters and they did not have paperwork for their zone or credentials and were trespassing as they were shooting in the City of Camden. The Marine Enforcement Unit ended an opportunistic situation where they caught someone harvesting blue crabs in closed season. In the Northern Region, Charlottsburg Area, a Scoutmaster went down a 5' cave and in the chamber on the left side, there was a black bear. The victim was injured and was taken to Morristown Medical Center and is currently recovering from his injuries.

Assistant Commissioner Richard Boornazian attended the meeting and made himself available to answer any questions they may have.

Acting Chief Carole Stanko reported for the Bureau of Wildlife Management. Acting Chief Stanko attended the Deer Classic on Sunday, January 10, 2016 and was pleased by the quality of the deer harvested in New Jersey. A stand-out example was a buck that measured 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ " rack and weighed 210 lbs. Acting Chief Stanko also reported that the deer harvest numbers were down by 22% due to the weather and increase in acorn crop. There is an emergency meeting on January 20, 2016 with the Federation to discuss the deer situation. Acting Chief Stanko wanted to discuss the possibility of including both the Migratory Bird Regulations and the Turkey Regulations Supplement into the Hunting Digest as a cost savings measure. Eliminating both free-standing publications will save \$2000 for the migratory bird, and \$20,000 for the turkey. In order to accomplish this, Acting Chief Stanko is proposing to remove the written zone boundary descriptions of the deer management zones and the turkey management zones from the digest. All of this information is available on-line and on the mapping system. Hard copies will be available upon request. This change is for the 2017 Hunting Digest. Discussions ensued about waterfowl, which is a 2-year cycle and Councilman DeMartino expressed concerns about the complexity of regulations and the possibility of laminating a card. Decision was to try without the card and revisit it later. Acting Chief Stanko spoke about the Black Bear Project and that she was going to petition the Department to pay cash overtime to the bear staff for their response to the Ramapo incident and the Cub Scout Leader incident. Acting Chief Stanko advised the Council members that the Bureau of Wildlife Management has welcomed a new employee, Ms. Emilia Topp to work on the black bear project. Acting Chief Stanko went on to further advise the Council of an internal meeting scheduled for January 13, 2016 on the 2017 Game Code. She spoke about the pheasant production at Rockport indicating that it went from 50,000 to 55,000 for an increase of 5,000 birds. Also, there was double the number of pheasants for the youth hunt. Acting Chief Stanko indicated that there were extra birds for sale and the Division sold them for close to \$17,000. Total number of pheasants raised was 64,585 and 59,952 went out (880 for dog training; 2280 for youth day and 1474 birds were sold). At the conclusion of Acting Chief Stanko's report, Councilman Gudmundsson wanted to mention that when reviewing the Game Code, to include days after for youth day pheasant hunts.

No one was available to give a report for the Endangered and Non-Game Species Program

New Business:

Chief Dave Golden presented a Proposed Land Swap. Chief Golden handed out information regarding the proposed lease amendment. The land swap was a 6+ to 1 swap. For the amendment of the current lease by increasing 3 acres (for Soccer Fields), the Division would get 20 acres from the township in return. Much discussion ensued as to why this donation and for what the present property was being used for. Chief Golden also indicated that the area we are looking to acquire is good breeding. Assistant Director Herrightly summarized the action as follows: Land donation of 20 acres for expanding lease by 3 acres. Chief Golden advised Council members that he spoke to the superintendent of schools regarding agreement being discussed. Councilman DeStephano stated that the parking lot can be put in the wooded area away from the schools. Councilman

Brodhecker questioned the culvert – was it going to be improved or replaced. Councilman Gudmundsson wanted to make sure that there was wording to allow for access wants to be clear and that the public have access.

Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes):

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ – Complaint that information given to Council was not given to the public. She then questioned, why do we lease to townships? She also felt that hunters near schools is not a good idea.

There were no other comments.

The return for 3 acres is getting 6X's more acreages (20 acres) and is only an amendment to the existing lease agreement. The 20 year lease was issued in 2002 and scheduled to expire in 2022 with the stipulation it can be renewed for 10 year periods. When the lease comes up for renewal in 2022, the second 10 year option, it is the divisions' option to renew or not. Township is currently not paying anything for use of the property. Chief Golden indicated that moving forward they will be looking at lease on properties differently. Councilman DeMartino questioned tenant lease and reducing it from two 10 year renewal options to a 1 single year renewal at 15 years, then after the 15 years negotiates for fair market value at that time.

Motion was made by Councilman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman Brodhecker to accept the land swap. Vote taken, 7 were in favor and one abstention due to late arrival at the January Council meeting.

Lunch break at 12:15 p.m. and returned from lunch at 12:53 p.m.

Jodi Powers, Bureau of Wildlife Management presented Community Based Deer Management Permit applications from Bernards Township, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, and Princeton Township. There were two individuals present from Princeton Township at the Council meeting. Decision was made to present each application individually and a vote taken at the conclusion of each presentation.

Ms. Powers presented Bernards Township's application, which was received on November 17, 2015 with the notification that the Township Resolution was passed in August, 2015 for a 6 week extension of winter bow ending on March 31, 2016. The program's goal is to reduce the number of deer related vehicular accidents from 80+ per year to 40 to 50 per year. Within the presentation a historical grid was presented and Bernards Township has been successful. Ms. Power's recommendation was to approve the application as submitted amending the Season under Section: 5:25-5.28 and 5.29.

Motion made by Councilman Brodhecker and seconded by Councilman Gudmundsson to approve Bernards Application for Community Based Deer Management. Vote taken, all in favor, none opposed.

Ms. Powers presented Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs application which was received on September 14, 2015 with notification that the Board of Chosen Freeholders passed the resolution on August 19, 2015 to allow volunteer sportsman to shoot deer on Tuesdays and Thursdays during a 7 week period beginning on January 19, 2016 and ending on March 1, 2016. Hunt will cull on two properties, the South Mountain Reservation and Hilltop Property. Since the program began in 2008, 32,648 lbs. of venison were donated to food banks. The program's goal is to reduce the number of deer on these properties. Within the presentation given, a copy of the County Resolution was attached. Ms. Power's recommendation was to approve the application as submitted amending the Season under Title 23, Sections 23:4-45; 23:4-24.1a; 23:4-13.1 and Game Code Section: 7:25; 5.29c. Discussion ensued from the council regarding the counts being done in April, and that the numbers appeared to be close to last year's. Acting Chairman Burke requested that in the future Essex

County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs put more into the plan with the recommendation that archery can be added and questioned why they do not have it.

Motion made by Councilman Brodhecker and seconded by Councilman DeMartino to approve Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Application for Community Based Deer Management. Vote taken, all in favor, none opposed.

Ms. Powers presented Princeton Townships application which was received on September 30, 2015 with the notification that the Township Resolution was passed in September 28, 2015, to hire White Buffalo, Inc. to cull deer thru March 31, 2016. Two representatives from Princeton Township were present at the meeting. The Division is not recommending the approval of the .22 rim-fire rifles. The programs goal is to reduce the number of deer related vehicular accidents in the township. Within the presentation of Princeton Townships historical grid was presented and numbers have fluctuated. Council members questioned why UBNJ's contract was not renewed and the response was that Princeton felt that UBNJ was non-compliant with the contract and the reporting was not received. Princeton Township is looking for a replacement for 2016-2017. Ms. Power's recommendation was to approve the application as submitted requesting an exemption to Title 23:4-13; 23:4-44; 23:4-45 and 23:4-13.1. Council provided the two representatives an opportunity to speak before voting on the application. Ms. Trisha Sesal, Attorney for both Princeton Boro and Township since 2013 and Bernie Miller, Councilman and liaison to Animal Control. Ms. Sesal spoke about the Bow Hunting issue with UNBJ and the problems then encountered with them abiding by the contract. She indicated that they are committed to look at other agencies. Mr. Miller indicated that he looks at the program as successful and has reduced the number of deer collisions and impact on gardens and property and that they are looking to get the numbers down to 20 deer per square mile. They also indicated that for there was a change in administration in 2015 so the underreporting was due to a change in the administrative gap. They also indicated that they felt this program was beneficial to open space in Princeton and species are returning which benefits the ecosystem and they wanted to share with Council to promote the program.

Motion made by Councilman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman VanMater to approve Princeton Townships Application for Community Based Deer Management. Vote taken, all in favor, none opposed.

Acting Chairman Burke spoke to the council members and questioned the need to meet in February, 2016. Discussion ensued and it was determined that there was not a need to have a February, 2016 meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Gudmundsson and seconded by Councilman Brodhecker to cancel the Fish and Game Council Meeting on February 9, 2016. Vote taken, all in favor, none opposed.

Chief David Jenkins spoke to the Council and indicated that he would not be providing an Endangered and Non-Game Species Program update. Chief Jenkins spoke on the State Wildlife Management Action Plan review and revision progress. Chief Jenkins indicated two important steps have been completed since the last update. First, the information from Action Development Workshops held this past summer along with similar information from the existing (2005) version of the plan has been entered into a database with assistance from a sub-contracted database expert. This information covers Focal Species. Chief Jenkins reminded the Council that the listing had started at over 600 species and then narrowed the listing to 107 and that the final list as well as the process by which is was narrowed is described on the website. Chief Jenkins then described that the second important step nearing completion was the development of Conservation Focal areas that will serves as the other means of focusing the actions of the revised Wildlife Action Plan.

Patrick Woerner, Endangered and Non-Game Species Program, gave a presentation on the Development of Conservation Focal Area mapping. Mr. Woerner indicated that the Landscape Project is a high priority for New Jersey and that he used 41 separate data layers in the analysis and that each Landscape Region was evaluated independently.

1:38 p.m. the Recording Machine indicated that the card was full – Diane Ogonofski shut off the machine and advised Acting Chairman Burke.

Presentation of landscape map continued and additional information on how the map was developed and that they are trying to assign by “Zoning” – starting with the Skylands Region.

Barbara Stoff spoke on the Buddy Fishing Licenses being on sale since December 17, 2015 and there will be another push in late February to early March. 108 licenses were sold. Ms. Stoff also indicated that the annual Turkey permit supplement is already on line and the application process starts on January 25th. She is also working with Walmart to get their systems up and running – they are having IT problems and based on her discussions, it appears that they don’t want to be bothered and she continually has a big battle with them. Ms. Stoff also indicated that Active (our vendor) has been trying to work with Walmart. Councilwoman Blumig questioned the status on the credit card machine and wanted to know who she could contact.

Public Comment (3 minutes):

Janet Pizar, Millburn, NJ – Spoke on the Community Deer Based Management Application and process and feels it is counter-productive.

Barbara Sachau, Whitehouse Station, NJ – Spoke on the donation of dead deer for the poor to eat and that there is lead throughout the deer from hunting and we are ignoring this issue. She also spoke about logging on Sparta Mountain.

There were no other comments

Motion made by Councilman Brodhecker and seconded by Councilwoman Blumig to adjourn meeting. Vote taken; all in favor; no opposition;

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.