

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NJ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Central Region Office
Robbinsville, New Jersey
May 14, 2024**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Frank Virgilio.

Chairman Virgilio 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 March 5, 2024 and delivered to the designated newspapers for Fish and Wildlife, the Newark Star Ledger and the Atlantic City Press on March 5, 2024.

Roll call was taken in attendance:

Chairman Frank Virgilio

Councilman James DeStephano

Councilman Mitchell Jones- **Late 10:18**

Councilman Ed Kertz

Councilman Rick Lathrop - **Absent**

Councilman Rob Pollock- **Virtual**

Councilman Bob Puskas- **Absent**

Councilman Loren Robinson

Councilman Ken Whildin

Fish & Wildlife employees included: D. Golden, L. Barno, G. Kopkash, A. Ivany, M. Monteschio, F. Panico, S. Crouse, P. Winkler, B. Stoff, J. Powers, T. Nichols, J. Sloan, J. Soell and D. Bajek.

There were several members of the public in attendance.

Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to approve the March 12, 2024, and April 17 Migratory Bird F&G Council minutes.

Councilman Robinson made a motion to approve the March 12, 2024 minutes, seconded by Councilman Whildin. Vote taken. all approved. Motion approved.

Councilman Robinson made a motion to approve the April 17th minutes, seconded by Councilman Kertz. vote taken, all approve.

Chairman Virgilio welcomed everyone and on behalf of our entire Fish and Game Council, we extend belated Mother's Day wishes to all the wonderful mothers here at NJ Fish and Wildlife. Lisa, we also want to offer you our congratulations and best wishes for your retirement! As you embark on a well-deserved journey of relaxation and new adventures, I extend my personal heartfelt congratulations on your retirement. Your dedication and leadership as Assistant Director of NJ Fish and Wildlife have left an indelible mark on every team member, our council, and the wildlife conservation community. It has been a true privilege and honor to work alongside you and witness your unwavering commitment to excellence, tireless advocacy, and dedication to our state's fish and wildlife resources. Your expertise, guidance, and mentorship have shaped professional growth and enriched the lives of countless others within our agency. As you transition into this exciting new chapter of your life, I do not doubt that your wisdom and passion will continue to make a positive impact wherever you go. May your retirement be filled with joy, fulfillment, and all the adventures you've ever dreamed of. Lisa, thank you for your 34 ½ years of service, your legacy will continue to inspire us long after you've bid farewell to your friends and colleagues at NJ Fish and Wildlife.

I would also like to mention the passing of Ed Markowski, who passed away at 79 years of age. Ed was a former Deputy Chief Conservation Police Officer who poured his heart and soul into protecting our wildlife resources with dedication and boundless love. He was a beacon of inspiration to all who knew him. His unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation touched countless lives and left a lasting mark on the world around him. Ed's compassion knew no bounds, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations. Ed will forever be remembered as a cherished friend, mentor, and guardian of wildlife in the hearts of those fortunate to know him.

Assistant Commissioner Golden wanted to mention that this is Lisa's last council meeting and maybe fitting that this meeting has such a hefty agenda. Lisa deals with fish and Wildlife's complex issues and works them through and brings them to council. Lisa, you will be greatly missed.

We embarked on a journey to simplify our regulations about 2 ½ years ago. All part of an R3 effort to remove barriers to people's entry into hunting/fishing and also retain individuals as they age. Our current regulations are complex and can create barriers. So, through Lisa's leadership, her staff have worked hard to resolve these issues. Our first step into this was to take a look at

our digest, and how to make it more readable and so doing so exposed some of the most complex problems we deal with in our regulations. We wish Lisa the best in her retirement!

Council Reports:

Agriculture:

Councilman Kertz reported he attended the monthly Farm Bureaus Directors meeting, the Atlantic County Board of Agriculture meeting, which was the last one for the summer, and the Atlantic County Federation meeting where they discussed changes of Game Code.

Councilman Jones reported it is busy season; crops are in the ground, and we are seeing fawns out, but have not seen many turkeys as of yet.

Dr. Reist reported HPAI in dairy cattle in seven states with positive herds. The USDA is taking an approach to this in all lactating dairy cattle moving across stateliness need to be tested and have certification of inspection, which includes sale barns. The only time they do not need that is if they are going directly to slaughter. This virus fell out of the sky from wild birds and changed slightly affecting dairy cows, pasteurization does kill it. There was one person, a dairy cow nurse effected with a positive PCR live particle exposure and got conjunctivitis. The CDC and FDA are working heavily to get farmers to practice using gloves and the USDA is doing a testing program. This virus is not in cows in NJ, but the virus is here.

Farmer/Sportsman Relations:

Councilman DeStephano reported he attended Morris County meeting, the Trappers meeting, and the Hudson River fisherman event they held at Ross's Dock with 75-100 people fishing.

Councilman Robinson reported he attended the State Federation meeting, Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon County, and the Game Code meeting. He also virtually attended the Union County meeting. He also encouraged a lot of his counties to make their opinions known on the APR and Union County sent a letter that they did not want APR in zone 13 where they hold their county hunt. They also applied for Community Deer Management grant to cover drone survey and butchering. At Middlesex, the Deer Project gave a great presentation and Law Enforcement was there as well. Ron Jones, from Predator Hunters and Trappers will be giving a free Trapping Seminar on June 8th from 3:00-7. And he will be attending the NJ Waterfowlers dinner this Saturday.

Chairman Virgilio reported he attended the Governors Surf Tournament meeting, and the tournament will be held this Sunday May 19th. This year we are excited about 8 high school teams will be participating in the surf fishing tournament and we are thrilled to have the high school team category. Teams consist of high school aged students who are part of formal fishing clubs, members of HOFNOD and a non-formal group. All funds raised by the tournament go

towards improving beach access and surf fishing instructor programs, equipment, plus marine education. He also attended the Federation Convention meeting, the 79th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, a meeting with Parks on access at Wharton, and the Southern region Federation meeting where they discussed the 2025 Federation Convention, deer regulations and the progress of the Delaware Bay Artificial Reef Project. He attended Gloucester and Camden County Federation meetings, and he attended the Hutton Hill Rifle and Revolver club meeting where they discussed concealed carry classes and range safety.

Councilman Whildin reported he attended two Cumberland County meetings, one of which discussed EHD in the South, two Game Code meetings, and a Law Enforcement meeting. He also had some discussions with the South Jersey Quail Project on some concerns about their being denied their collection permit. Also, Ron Jones will be giving a free Trapping Seminar at Piney Hollow Gun Club on June 1st from 3:00-7:00 pm.

Finance Report: No report.

Fish Committee: No report.

Game Committee:

Chairman Virgilio reported there were two meetings, and they will discuss later today.

Endangered & Non-Game Species Advisory Committee: No report.

Law Enforcement Committee: will discuss today.

Public Comment: No report.

Legislative Report:

Mary Monteschio reported there are now two more sponsors for RAWA totaling 19 sponsors. Bill A4296 S3299- establishes exemption from the ban of importation of woodchucks under certain circumstances is in Senate Environment Committee.

Fish & Wildlife Reports:

Business Administration:

Barbara Stoff reported that License sales comparison from last year to this year to the end of April are close to where we've been. If you combine all of the hunting, we are down by 1%. Fishing is up 1%, Trout Stamp is up around .25 %. We have seen an increase of 37% in the Wildlife Management Area use permits and we have had an increase of 12% in shellfish permits.

Also, this is the second year of the cycle for reinspection for farmers, which is done every 3-5 years. The letters were sent out for the latter half of the alphabet back in March and are really slow coming back.

Freshwater Fisheries:

Chief Crause reported We are already into week 6 of our spring trout stocking season, with 1 more week of stocking to go.

Opening Day Angler Survey Report by Charles Sedor (Technician)

The Opening Day of the 2024 trout season was Saturday, April 6th. Participation and success was considered low due to the significant challenges of cold weather and heavy rains leading into Opening Day. Rivers were high and muddy, ponds and lakes were cold and stained, reducing fish activity and feeding. Rain was noted at some locations. Some survey clerks reported angler access trails or parking areas were still partially flooded and inaccessible. If you take a look at page 3 of the report you will see a photo of Greenwich Lake that is out of bank and a park bench is under water.

The overall number of opening day anglers counted in this year's survey was 779 anglers, which is relatively low, but keep in mind this survey is not designed or intended to compare Opening Day success across the state from one year to the next but is to identify participation rates at targeted locations and associated success. Surveys are conducted for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to those without recent data, Bonus Broodstock lakes, and waters being considered for removal from the program, or just the convenience of a local volunteer.

28 surveys and 9 spot checks conducted by volunteers and Fish & Wildlife staff, 25 were on lakes or ponds and 12 were on rivers. The average catch rate during the 2024 Opening Day Angler Survey was 0.47 fish per angler, which is lower than the average catch rate of 0.55 fish per angler, though not alarmingly so. As expected, the conditions resulted in both lower-than-average turnout and decreased success rates.

Despite this, determined anglers still saw success at many locations. Rowand's Pond had the highest catch rate at 3.7 trout per angler, with Ponderlodge Pond and Westville Lake with catch rates well above the year's average at 1.0 and 1.1 fish/angler respectively. Additionally, Verona Park Pond, Mac's Pond, and Sylvan Lake all had respectable turnouts of 71, 61, and 57 anglers. Many anglers commented that, despite the cool weather and high water, they were happy to be out on Opening Day and excited for the rest of trout season.

Unfortunately, trout were not as cooperative in all the lakes and ponds across the state. Multiple survey clerks reported the number of anglers at a waterbody was highest at 8 a.m. or sometimes 9 a.m. but dropped heavily by 10 a.m. While temperatures did rise throughout the day, so did the

wind, along with light rain in some places. Additionally, multiple waterbodies surveyed (Spooky Brook Park Pond, Pohatcong Lake, Prospertown Lake, Clinton Reservoir, and Mountain Lake) did not produce any trout during the Opening Day Angler Survey.

A report is available, including an appendix that includes the raw data, with number of anglers by the hour, along with catch information.

Virtual Freshwater Fisheries Forum – Held on May 2nd, 49 anglers were in attendance. This is a low turnout rate, and we hope more people attend the 2nd of 2 meetings to be held on May 16th. Agenda topics included Bass Sampling from 2023, a demonstration of our Freshwater Fishing Explorer app, an overview of Walleye broodstock collection and spawning, and a Skillful Angler Program update, followed by a Q&A period. The meeting was recorded and will be made available on our website. The next meeting will cover 2023 Coolwater Species sampling results, along with Lake Trout and Landlocked Salmon updates, along with a review of Freshwater Fishing Education Programs, and considerations for the Trout Stocking Program, along with a Q&A.

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan – Recently approved by the governor and the National AIS Task Force.

Information and Education:

Chief Ivany reported the new second edition Wildlife Habitat Supporter Stamp is out now and available. The American Oystercatcher is the featured species. The annual Opening Day of Trout Season event for veterans was held at the Pequest Trout Hatchery with 55 veterans and families attending. The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament is this Sunday, and more than 300 participants are currently registered with on-line registration being the most popular. The Marine Digest is on our website. There was an issue with shipping the hard copies which will hopefully be resolved soon. Fish & Wildlife's R3 Hunting and Shooting Sports Program held its 4th Annual Women's Mentored Turkey Hunt on April 28 - 30, 2024. This event was made possible through partnerships with the Landis Sewerage Authority who provided hunting access to their property, Good Sports Gunning Club who allowed the use of their club for range sessions and pre-hunt programming, and R3 mentors from Fish & Wildlife and NWTF-New Jersey. We'd also like to thank the NJOA who provided lunch for the event and Parvin State Park who provided lodging. Lastly, we are working on revamping the Division Representative Program. An on-line survey was distributed through the State Federation of Sportsman's Clubs to all federation members. At the end of April, the survey closed, and we received nearly 600 responses. Staff will be going through that data after the surf tournament and continuing to come up with a plan for a new revamped division representative program.

Land Management:

Pete Winkler reported crews continue to stock trout, routine maintenance on WMA's and Spring planting.

We are working on three RCPP grants, Warrens Mill Dam removal, Hyper humus Wetlands Restorations, and a Statewide Early Successional Project and each grant will be seeking the maximum of 25 million in funding.

Four staff are attending classes at Rutgers Cooperative Extension to become certified for Wetlands Delineations.

Under the Organic Farming Initiative, the first lease was signed for Wittingham WMA.

The Glassboro project plantings are completed today and tomorrow there will be a site visit with Gloucester County Soil Conservation District and the next step would be developing and monitoring plan with WSP.

Tyler is working on our farm services contract with Treasury that expires 2025, so when that gets closer, we will need farmers in Central and North to bid on that contract.

Mary Monteschio reported on the lease we started working on back in 2012 with Union Heritage Associates. This is a historic home in the Clinton WMA, named the Joseph Turner House and years ago they approached us about maintaining it. All the work was completed but never got to a lease document and were not sure if anyone ever presented it through Council. The lease includes the house and 1 acre around the house. The Union Forge Heritage Association is dedicated to the mission of promoting, researching and providing interpretive programming of early American History in Hunterdon County. The Union Heritage House will be going to pay us \$20 for those 20-years. They are paying for all the upkeep and maintenance costs and interpretive services. Mary is presenting this under NJSA 23:8a-1 the Council shall be given an opportunity to review any proposed lease and to make recommendations there on to the Commissioner before such lease is executed.

Law Enforcement:

Chief Panico reported the CPOs are busy with the Spring and early summer stuff such as trout, enforcement, turkey and the WMAs are starting to jump as the weather gets warmer. All four regions, North, South, Central and Marine working on striped bass work still. On the personnel side, the newest six officers just entered the second phase of their field training and are out and about with their coaches and we anticipate them being on their own early July. Thursday we are conducting interviews for new CPOs, and we have a notice of vacancy that is open right now and will be closing June 1st for another batch of new hires.

Wildlife Management:

Assistant Director Barno reported that this will be her last meeting, she has attended since February 2023. We have our new Chief of Wildlife Management, Jim Oxley, who comes from Air Monitoring.

Bears are starting to drum up, yesterday there was one in S. Orange who was just traveling around, and no response was needed. Sparta Twp. A dog was killed by a Black Bear, there was also a report of a dog killed/injured in the same area last week, but the resident has been unresponsive to inquiries from staff to get any more detail. As of April 15th, there were 3 home entries, 3 attempted entries, 3 property damage and 1 aggressive. Traps were set and we captured two target bears, one of which was a 430 lb. male and two non-targets bears.

Pheasant preliminary total harvest numbers, as of yesterday, Youth Day was down 41% from 2023 with 70 birds taken compared to 119 in 2023.

Period A- was also down with 814 compared to 924 in 2023, Period B- we were up 14% from 2023 and last week we were down from 294 in 2023 to 232 currently. Period E- this total is for the first three out of the first four. Period D is currently underway.

Staff spent a lot of time on the Game Code changes, part of that was on the Deer Regulation Survey, which closed on May 1, 2023, and we had 9,876 respondents with a 12% response rate once we removed all duplicates, incomplete responses, and invalid CID numbers totaling 7,887 good responses. We had \$160,000 Community Deer Grant closed on May 3rd with 11 applicants. Also, two drafts and revisions of the hunting digest were completed.

Endangered and Nongame Species:

Assistant Commissioner Golden reported that we are proposing updates to the lists of endangered and nongame wildlife. The rule amendment was filed and will be published in the June 3 NJ State Register. The changes in endangered, threatened, and nongame wildlife species, most significantly, will be delisting Bald Eagles and Ospreys, while some reptiles are being upgraded.

New Business:

2023/2024 Deer Season Harvest Report:

Jodi Powers gave a presentation on the 2023-2024 Deer Season Harvest Report and will also send a pdf to the council.

2024 Pheasant Program:

Assistant Director Barno gave a presentation on the 2024 Pheasant and Quail Program.

Public Comment on Pheasant Program: No comments

Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion.

Councilman Robinson made a motion to accept the 2024 Pheasant Program as presented, seconded by Councilman Jones. Vote taken; all approve. motion carries.

Lunch: 12:00 – 12:40

Game Code Recommendations:

Jodi Powers gave a presentation on the recommended Deer changes for the 2025 Game Code. The changes include:

- Simplify regulations
- Eliminate and combine regulations sets
- Align season date structure
- Reinstate 7 buck bag limit
- Multi-Zone Permit
- Possible expansion to other regulation sets
- Antler Point Restrictions (APR)
- APR regulations in the North and South

Additional considerations would be:

- Exempt Youth Hunters from APR Restrictions throughout ALL seasons within APR designated zones
- Change Boundaries of Zone 13 to exclude Union County
- Request from Union County Federation
- Removes APR from Union County properties
- Incorporate Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge into zone 13

James Sloan gave a presentation on the recommended Turkey changes for the 2025 Game Code. The changes include:

- Close Fall Either-Sex Season
- Ammunition Changes:
 - Allow .410 and 28 gauge
 - Require shot with a minimum density of 18 grams per cubic centimeter for .410 and 28 gauge
 - Remove Turkey blinds from any WMA at the end of legal hunting hours
 - Turkey blinds must be labeled with CID number
- Opening Day- change start time from 8am to sunrise

- Extend season to Semi-Wilds by 16 days to end of March 31 and eliminate option to extend season by 20 days as no longer needed
- Remove restriction of stocking pen-reared quail in south Jersey WMAs near previous quail focal areas
- Prohibit dog training on WMAs stocked for Youth Day hunt during the youth week of pheasant hunting
- Remove list of specific WMAs and reference Fish & Wildlife website

Peter Stark gave a presentation on the recommended Small Game changes for the 2025 Game Code Game. The changes include:

- Gray Fox
 - Require harvest reporting
- Air Guns
 - Allow .25 caliber air guns for rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, opossum, and coyote hunting
- Gray Squirrel
 - Eliminate the Special Squirrel Muzzleloader rifles no larger than .36 caliber during regular season
- Trapping
 - Replace “durable and legible” tags to require “metal tags” for trap identification
- Body Gripping Traps
 - Add beaver, mink, and river otter to the species for which gripping traps can be set exposed above the water surface in tidal areas
- Dispatch
 - Allow .25 caliber rifle for dispatching animals
- Beaver
 - Lengthen season- December 15 to March 15
 - Increase Bag Limit from 8 to 10 beaver/permit
 - Increase trap limit from 5 to 6 traps per day per zone
- Eliminate check station requirement
 - Require harvest reporting through AHRS
- Otter
 - Eliminate requirement to surrender otter carcass
- Mink, Muskrat, & Nutria

-Eliminate North/South Zones

-North Nov.15- March 15

-South Dec.1 – March 15

- Statewide Season

-November 15-March 15

- Snap Traps

- Allow use of snap traps on dry land (away from buildings) for the trapping of weasels

-Provided trap is recessed inside a box (cubby set)

-Minimize capture of non-targets

-AFWA approved BMP devise for weasels

- Provides as additional tool besides cable restraints for trappers targeting weasels

- Coyote/ Fox Hunting

- Regular Season

-End of Sept. – Mar. 15

-Bow, shotgun

-Dogs allowed

- Special Permit Season

-Jan 1- March 15

-Separate day and night regs

-Day- Bow, Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Rimfire, Centerfire (.17-.25 cal)

-Night – Shotgun only (shot size #4 -T)

-No dogs

- Incidental Harvest

-Firearm deer hunting

-Spring turkey

- Allow incidental harvest during Early Fall Bow

- Add .25 caliber air guns

- Eliminate permit requirement for “Special Permit Season”

- Divide Regular Season into Day and Night

-Aug.1 – Mar.15

- Bow, shotgun, muzzleloader, rimfire, centerfire, .25 cal. Air gun
- No centerfire rifles on WMAs and Parks Aug.1-Dec.31 (align with woodchuck)
- Dogs allowed

- Night
 - Jan.1-Mar.15
 - 10-12 ga. Shotgun only
 - Allow BB to #3 buck
- Add nutria, rabbit, muskrat, and mink to list of species allowed for take in response to damage
 - Damage to crops, livestock and property
 - Other special management problems (airports, waterways, golf courses, etc.)
- Harvesting Reporting Deadline
 - 10 pm Harvest reporting deadline for ALL species (except bears)

Recodification:

- Main Subsection
 - General Provisions
 - Closed Seasons
 - Hunting
 - Trapping
 - Special Permits
 - Wildlife Disease- Surveillance and Management

Regulations for Individual Species listed alphabetically under Hunting & Trapping

- Species Sections Layout
 - 7:25-5.xx Species
 - What's needed (a) licensing and permit requirement
 - When (b) season dates, hunting hours
 - How Many (c) bag limits
 - How (d) manner
 - Means (e) method and ammo
 - Permits (f) permits, application process and issuance etc.
 - Tagging/reporting (g) tagging, AHRS, etc.
 - Where (h) management zones or areas, as applicable
 - Permit Quotas (i) quota tables
 - Authority (j) Statutes that support/provide authority for rules
- Eliminating:
 - 7:25-5.3 Dogs
 - 7:25-5.14 special regulation limiting use of shotguns and shotgun shells containing lead
 - 7:25-5.22 wild animals; possession, killing
 - 7:25-5.23 Firearms and missiles, etc.

- 7:25-5.24 Bow and arrow, general provisions
- 7:25-5.31 Permit shotgun and muzzleloader seasons for Great Swamp Nat. Refuge
- 7:25-5.33 Pheasants and quail stamp designated areas
- 7:25-5.34 Controlled hunting- hunting restrictions on WMAs
- 7:25-5.38 Fish and Game Law Enforcement Region Headquarters
- 7:25.5.39 Severability

- New Sections

- 7:25-5.2 Definitions
- 7:25-5.3 Closed seasons, game species
- 7:25-5.28 Community Based Deer Management Permits
- 7:25-5.29 Provisions for Hunters with Disabilities
- 7:25-5.35 Wildlife Disease- surveillance and management

- Closed Seasons

-it shall be illegal to take, kill, or attempt to take or kill any of the game species identified below in the State of New Jersey at any time:

1. Bobcat (*Felis rufus*)
2. Bobwhite quail (wild) (*Colinus virginianus*)
3. Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*)
4. Morning dove (*Zenaida macroura*)
5. Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*)
6. Sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*)

License Restorations:

David Anderson- Present

Captain Soell read aloud the statement for the revocation appeal for Mr. Anderson who was present. Mr. Anderson was convicted on **December 16, 2022** of violation **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 23:10-5**. Interference with the duties of a Conservation police officer, **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 23:4-12** leave edible portions of game bird to waste (Canada Goose), **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.13(L)16** did take Canada Goose over the daily limit. A second violation on **July 12,2023** of violation **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 7:25-2.2(d)** Blocking a road with motor vehicle on WMA.

Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to open the floor for discussion and seconded by Councilman Jones. Vote taken, all in favor; motion approved.

After the council discussed Mr. Anderson's violations, Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman Jones. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.

Chairman Virgilio stated that the council has three options, reinstate, continue with the revocation, or delay for additional information. If there is a motion to reinstate, for the record justification is needed.

Councilman Whildin made a motion Not to reinstate Mr. Anderson's license, seconded by Councilman DeStephano. 4- in favor; 3- opposed (Kertz, Jones, Robinson). Motion carried.

Harry Lazarchick- Present

Captain Soell read aloud the statement for the revocation appeal for Mr. Lazarchick who was present. Mr. Lazarchick was convicted on **December 3,2019** of violation **PA Game Commission** Possession of loaded firearm in truck. A second violation on December 26,2023 of violation **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.6 (A)**, Take over the limit deer during permit bow season.

Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to open the floor for discussion and seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Vote taken, all in favor; motion approved.

After the council discussed Mr. Lazarchick's violations, Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.

Chairman Virgilio stated that the council has three options, reinstate, continue with the revocation, or delay for additional information. If there is a motion to reinstate, for the record justification is needed.

Councilman Whildin made a motion Not to reinstate Mr. Lazarchick's license, seconded by Councilman Kertz. Vote taken, 4 in favor; 3 opposed (Jones, DeStephano, Robinson). Motion carried.

Bora Balcik – on-line

Captain Soell read aloud the statement for the revocation appeal for Mr. Balcik who was not present. Mr. Balcik was convicted on **December 5,2022** of violation **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 23:4-42** Did hunt permit shotgun during closed season. A second violation on **November 29,2023** of violation **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(f)** Did hunt permit archery without a permit. **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 7:25-5.30(g)** Did take an antlered deer during permit archery without a valid buck permit. A third violation on February 24,2023 of violation **N.J.S.A/N.J.A.C. 23:4-24** Did hunt deer with a firearm on a Sunday.

Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to open the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to open the floor for discussion and seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Vote taken, all in favor; motion approved.

After the council discussed Mr. Balcik's violations, Chairman Virgilio asked for a motion to close the floor for discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinson to close the floor for discussion, seconded by Councilman DeStephano. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried.

Chairman Virgilio stated that the council has three options, reinstate, continue with the revocation, or delay for additional information. If there is a motion to reinstate, for the record justification is needed.

Councilman Robinson made a motion Not to reinstate Mr. Balcik's license, seconded by Councilman Kertz. Vote taken, all in favor; Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Tom W. commented on .25 cal. air rifle for coyote, will it be deadly enough. You also have rabbits down as a nuisance and could be controlled, but we already have a problem and don't think we should consider them a nuisance. Lastly, the deer zone sets, He is very content with the zone set changes are going to occur. He does have concerns with zone 65, which go along with not getting any benefits.

Juliette Harlow commented that we do have good R3 programs and wanted to know if we have any initiative to have translators available for anyone who has a difficult time trying to communicate.

Councilman Whildin made a motion to adjourn at 3:09 pm., seconded by Councilman Jones. Vote taken; all approve. Motion carries.

Next meeting: June 11, 2024, at 10:00 am. In-person at the Assunpink Office.