



## Minutes from the annual business meeting held August 13, 2016

**Location:** The home of Pete Spadone, 49 Sprucefield Lane, Arundel, ME

**Members present:** David Blethen, David Eslicker, George Eyerer (President), Cindy Fanning, Mark Fanning, Corey Hamilton, Dick Hutchinson, Scott Keniston, Dennis Kerekes, Taylor Lumia, Scott McNeff, Marek Plater, Peter Spadone,

**New members present:** Shaun Hopkins

**Minutes of Meeting.** The meeting was called to order by George Eyerer at 11:00 am, and proceeded using the attached agenda (Enclosure 1).

**1. Secretary and Treasurer's Report.** George Eyerer explained that Secretary / Treasurer Tom Gagne was unable to attend the meeting due to work constraints and asked for a volunteer to take the minutes for the meeting. Dave Blethen took on the assignment. George read the report that Tom had prepared. A total of \$3708.71 was in the club's treasury prior to the annual business meeting held in August 2015. Dues collected at the 2015 meeting totaled \$220. The 2015 raffle generated \$310.00. Tee shirt and hat sales at the picnic netted \$96.00. Additional dues and sales after the meeting totaled 48.65. Total net income was \$674.65. Debits during the year were as follows: \$50 donation to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, \$200 donation to Avian Haven, \$50 donation to the Peregrine Fund, one bill paid to Blacksheep Design for tee shirts and hats. Expenditures totaled \$893.60 for the year. MF&RC funds totaled \$3489.76 immediately prior to the 2016 picnic.

### **Old Business:**

**2. Liaison update, Scott Keniston:** Scott reported that he received approximately 50 inquiries as a result of the contact information on the website.

**3. Constitution and Bylaws update - Dick Hutchinson** Dick distributed hard copies of a bylaw change proposal referring to scheduling the winter meets. (Enclosure 2) The longwing meet in particular can be difficult to host due to weather. Frozen marshes have forced a reschedule in recent years. After a lengthy discussion, a minor change to the bylaws was articulated. Marek Plater moved that we accept the change, Mark Fanning seconded the motion. The motion carried. George Eyerer called for the revised bylaws be emailed to the members and posted on our website.

**4. Historical Archives** - Mark Fanning Mark passed out hard copies of the original legislation granting falconry legal status in Maine. (Enclosure 3) Mark read excerpts from the document S.P. 385, L.D. 1131, noting the legislation passed in April 1973. He recounted work getting the proposal through the legislative process noting the contribution of William Pepper, Larry White, Mark Mullet, and Joe Cook. Mark noted that the original bill made falconry legal but regulations evolved over time. Mark noted falconers worked with the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Game noting Scott Keniston's work and countless trips to Augusta to help develop those regulations.

**6. NAFA update, Scott McNeff:** Scott outlined NAFA's recent work in establishing 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) legal status for funds allowing NAFA to accept donations for a "savings" account that could be used for legal or other matters. He explained that traditionally NAFA was only classified as a 501(c)(7).

Scott shared recent discussions on the possibility of increasing the number of passage peregrine permits, noting more advocacy in the Central Flyway. Discussion opened to all members discussing appropriate policy on states sharing the permits.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**7. New Members** Scott Keniston introduced attendee Shaun Hopkins to the group. Shaun is from Tenant's Harbor. He had recently become a NAFA member. Shaun told us a little about himself and filled out an application for affiliate member of MFRC. The application was sponsored by Scott McNeff and accepted by the attending members.

**8. Pheasant Season** Taylor Lumina worked with Mark Fanning to draft a letter to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game proposing an extension of the season for pheasants to include the month of September. The letter is intended to be the official proposal of the MFRC. (attached). The letter expresses four rationales for the expanded season based on safety, game availability, raptor training, and non impact of prey populations. Taylor and Mark added that they plan to do more socializing of this topic in Augusta. A motion by Scott McNeff to approve the letter was seconded by Mark Fanning. Motion carried.

**9. Donations** Dick Hutchinson reminded the attendees of the donations made last year. Discussion followed. Many members suggested keeping the donations the same this year. Scott McNeff moved that in addition to the traditional donations, that a \$500 donation be made to the NAFA Small Grants fund, seconded by Marek Plater. After some discussion, the motion passed.

**10. Kestrel project report-** Marek Plater reported on the results of this extensive kestrel box project. He reported that out of 16 boxes, 14 were occupied this season. He banded 54 birds. Many members commended Marek for this success. Marek compared his with other projects in the west. He reminded the attendees that money was set aside last year to help him buy

materials for the boxes, but he did not take it as he did not need more material that season. Scott Keniston advised the group that Marek had appeared on the television series Northwoods law and commented that the MFRC and falconry in general gained favorable exposure from his contribution to the show.

**11. 2017 Picnic** Dick Hutchison volunteered to host the 2017 picnic, noting that it tradition provides that it be a northern Maine host that year.

Meeting was adjourned by President George Eyerer at 12:30.

\*\*\*ENCLOSURE 1\*\*\*



**Agenda for the Maine Falconry and Raptor Conservancy  
Picnic and Business Meeting  
August 13, 2016**

**Schedule**

10:00: Picnic begins, dues collected

11:00: Business meeting

12:30: Lunch

1:30 Raffle/Social

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**Business Agenda**

Meeting called to order by George Eyerer

**Old Business**

- 1) Secretary/Treasurer report- Tom Gagne
- 2) Liaison update - Scott Keniston
- 3) Constitution and Bylaws update and vote- Dick Hutchinson
- 4) Historical Archives- ?
- 5) NAFA update- Scott McNeff

**New business**

- 1) New members (if applicable)
- 2) Pheasant season- Mark Fanning/Taylor Lumia
- 3) Donations- Dick Hutchinson
- 4) Field Meets
- 5) Waterfowl hearing report – Scott Keniston
- 6) Kestrel project report- Marek Plater
- 7) 2017 picnic info
- 8) Other