



New York State Conservation Council Inc

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In reflecting on what should be written in this fall report the word “Resolve” keeps coming to mind. The resolve of the Council not the resolve of any one person or group. Of the Council means, of its members and staff, to support the New York State Conservation Council’ Mission and Goals. In this concept of “Resolve” it has allowed the NYSCC to continue to exist and promote a common goal for all Sportsmen (Hunters, Trappers, Fisherman, and Conservations), Even more importantly it has allowed us, the Council, to grow and change, as necessary.

I would like to mention some changes, indicators, that the Council has dealt with over the few years that the resolve of the Council has been able to deal with.

The letterhead above is on at least its third change in as many years as the NYSCC continues to serve. While we don’t have a brick-and-mortar address, the location by which our Executive Director operates from has changed three time over the last couple of years, basically without a hitch, to the Council, based on the hard work of Casey, our Executive Director.

Our office operation has changed from two dedicated workers (Pat and Julie) to one full time, Casey working full time as our Executive Director, and two part time contractors working as an accountant and website manager. This has proven to be a workable and affordable change.

Casey has a degree in Environmental Conservation from SUNY ESF. We are trying to take advantage of Casey’s degree and experience by getting her involved in areas close to her studies and interest. We also must remember that Casey is employed as a 40 hour per week employee. The board has no intention of assigning more work than what can be performed in 40 hours. How can this be done? It can be done by more of our membership and BODs stepping up, with Resolve and doing tasks assigned to Casey that others can also easily do.

In case you didn’t know the Council now has a line of Credit. It is only meant to be used if needed on a short-term basis. Did you know that the Council has a Line of Credit that has never been used but it is there if needed. (There are guidelines set up for its use.) We the Council, has the Resolve to see it stays that way.

Back in 2020, the initiative “Rebuild 2020” was introduced This initiative is based on the “Resolve” to see that the NYSCC remains pertinent and timely. This Rebuild initiative is now moving into 2023, remains pertinent and has established model which we strive to operate by. Rebuild 2023 is deserving of a report if its own and we need to continue the “Resolve” to work the “Rebuild 2020- “model.

Our Active Membership (Counties) numbers are subject to change but are basically holding their own, at this time. The addition of some active Associate Memberships (statewide organizations) is helping to maintain the support base by which we operate on. There is a common problem that we all face. The local clubs are losing memberships due to aging out and no one new stepping up. “There is no one willing to step up and take my place,” is an all too common of a comment at the county level and that problem trickles up to the Council.

OPENINGS: Things change, and our Officers also have work and family responsibilities. The Council, this year is seeing three Officers stepping down from their positions. At the time of this writing there are no replacements that have step up to fill these soon to be vacant positions. The three positions are 1st VP, Secretary, and Treasurer. Those leaving these positions are Keith Tidball, Rod Boula Secretary, and Lori Vezendy Treasurer. Changing work responsibilities and time limitations are the basic reason for these people stepping down. They all are still strong Council members and their service as officers is greatly appreciated.

Future Council Actions: A report deserving of a report of its own is conservation legislation and Gun Issues. So much just is not right. Hundreds of pieces of legislation on conservation and access issues are out there. How many are acted on through completion passed or defeated each year.? Usually less than 15. I am thinking we should be giving out Silver Anniversary Awards to Legislative Committees that have held up bills in their committees for over 20 years or more. The Transportation Committee would be a multiple recipient (snowmobiles and atvs). When questioned about legislation being held up in committee there is no problem seen by those that support such action. I am sorry it is just poor democracy / ethics.

Recent gun and firearm legislation / action may I say is close to being sinful. We have problems related to safety. A tragedy happens legislation is introduced and passed and sign into law in a flash, (by legislative practice), with little study to see if the action past would be effective. Well intended is a nice term to use. Well intended without knowledge has the consequence of being just as wrong and vile as something done deliberately by an anti.

At this Fall Convention, Paloma Capanna will have given a presentation which will includes current 2nd amendment issues on both the state and local level. Paloma has around 30 years of experience working with 2nd amendment issues. Gun issues for Council membership now lies on both the state and federal level. This presentation along with our membership's input will go a long way in developing the course of action of the Council.

Some may ask why we follow actions done on a Federal Level? One example was given to me. A 2nd amendment issue that passes in California will make its way to New York with the supporter that supported that issue in California.

The Resolve of all of us, to support the NYSCC is a good thing. May we all take the opportunity to be involved and do our part.

Thank you,

Chuck Parker President

New York State Conservation Council