

Stephen opened the meeting promptly at 7:03 pm and asked if there were any errors or omissions in the January minutes. Hearing none, Jerry moved we accept the minutes as read. Seconded by Barry. Passed.

Old/Ongoing Business:

***NSFA&H Convention:** Stephen asked who would like to represent SSWA as delegates to the March NSFAH Convention in Truro. We are pleased that Annette & Gary Mader offered to go again as nobody else was interested. Eugene has attended the last four years but opted out this year. It will be held March 20, 21 & 22 in Truro. SSWA has not put forward any resolutions this year.

<u>*Honda Cottage Package Raffle Tickets:</u> All tickets need to be in by our March meeting so Harley can take them to the Convention the following weekend. Tickets for the 2020 raffle will be drawn for at the Annual Convention. This is the last year Honda will be part of the Federation's sponsorship. Tickets cost \$2 or 3 / \$5 and are available until our March meeting. First prize consists of a Honda 2.3 HP outboard motor, a 2200 watt Honda generator, and a Honda gas trimmer. Second prize is a limited edition wildlife print, and third prize is a Grohman belt knife. SSWA will retain around 50% of the sales we make. Contact Stephen if you would like tickets. <u>*Website</u>: Stephen has spent considerable time and effort bringing our website back up to date, and apologized for neglecting to do it since last summer. Check it out sometime. The address is in the right hand box at the top of the minutes.

<u>*The 2020 Youth Hunting Camp</u>: Stephen asked if anyone was interested in going to McGown Lake during March break for the annual Lands and Forestry Youth Hunting Camp where we spend a few hours giving the young participants lessons on how to make and set rabbit snares, and also how to prep rabbits for consumption. The participants make their own snares and then are taken out in the adjacent thicket to set them. After that, they are assembled in an area where they are given instructions and a hands-on demonstration in skinning and cleaning a rabbit for cooking. These kids come from all over the province, and this program is so popular that there is usually a waiting list, and applications have even been received from PEI. Gary has some rabbits to take for the demonstrations.

People who volunteered once again are Annette, Gary, Ron T, Stephen & Greg. They will meet at the Tri-District Fire Hall and go from there. Gary also takes some fur samples and animal skulls and does a presentation on trapping etc. Our presentation is the first thing that these people do right after their arrival, and for the next 2 days they are given an introduction to various outdoor activities related to hunting, including compass, GPS, fire making and shelter building, first aid, survival kits, and a safety talk. They also spend time on a range shooting .22's, crossbows and longbows. Our club continues to sponsor three of these people in memory of departed member Greg Tanner.

<u>Correspondence/Info:</u> Various topics included:

* Tick information: (Beware, they are still here!) The winter has been quite mild so hasn't had a lot of effect on the deer tick population. A report out of New Glasgow had four dogs in one month with a tick-borne disease called Anaplasmosis, a bacterial infection that can cause jointpain and lameness as well as bleeding disorders.

* Studies have been done in New Brunswick & Quebec on moose calves carrying so many moose ticks they actually die from lack of blood. These studies have shown the moose calves can have thousands of ticks on them at one time.

* Stephen brought in a report on Canada's global military standing. We rate #21 in the world, behind countries such as France, Italy, Egypt and Spain. In a country that offers some of the most abundant clean drinking water, and vast resources, one would think there would be more of a priority on our defense spending.

* Saskatchewan has joined Alberta in rejecting the new gun bans being imposed by the Federal Government. Alberta passed Motion 41 on Nov.27'th in support of firearm ownership in that province. Ontario, under Doug Ford, is on the verge of joining the movement.

<u>Treasurer's Report:</u> Eugene reported a balance of \$5027.67. Gary and Annette returned the 2019 financial books after having reviewed them. Their comments were: "We didn't find any problems and they were very easy to follow and understand." Thanks to both Annette & Gary for doing this. It is important that our financial records are open and transparent.

Lunenburg Rod and Gun Club Report: Otis had sent Stephen an email containing a video prepared by The Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights (CCFR). Stephen had already forwarded it to as many SSWA members that we have email addresses for. After some discussion, Gary moved we donate \$500.00 to CCFR to aid in their battle against the federal Liberal Gov. and their directive to ban certain firearms. This was seconded by Barry, and passed with a vote of 12 for and one against. Eugene will arrange for the check to be sent forthwith.

For inquiries on shooting days or info on joining the Lunenburg Rod and Gun Club please call Otis @ 543-8040.

NSFA&H Updates: Harley had several items to discuss when he arrived a bit late. He had a previous engagement therefore was not present when Stephen asked about the acceptance of the Jan minutes. So, the first item was a correction to what was stated in those minutes. We had understood the Wilderness Protected Areas are exempt from hunting. This is incorrect. The statement should have been that these areas are not exempt from hunting, but they are exempt from motorized access. That means that anyone can utilize these areas, but must do so on foot.

- Owls Head Park was listed as a park but the Provincial Gov. had it removed from the list because some investor wants to develop it into two or three golf courses.

- Harley has been working on getting some shooting clubs to join the NSFA&H. The more members, the stronger the voice. Harley was pleased to announce that he was successful in acquiring both the MicMac Rod and Gun Club, and the Lunenburg Rod and Gun Club, as new members to the NSFAH.

- He stated that the NSFAH has taken a stand to oppose open pen fish farming in the province's ocean waters. They do, however, support land based fish farming as a clean and viable means to produce penned salmon as an acceptable food source.

New Business:

* Gary talked a bit about coyotes and a new tape worm: Dogs, foxes and coyotes can all pass on a tape worm that can then infect cattle, sheep and yes, even humans. It can be fatal. Because all trappers had been asked to turn in their coyote carcasses, it was discovered that the tape worm has been confirmed in Nova Scotia. It can be transferred through handling blood. Trappers and anyone else handling wild animals dead or alive should wear gloves at all times. Even when cleaning a deer or a rabbit, it is recommended.

<u>* Financial Report for 2019 & Budget for 2020</u>: Eugene passed around a copy of the 2019 budget and 2019 actual results for a comparison. Also, he proposed a 2020 budget. Stephen had a question about why it cost SSWA \$903.00 for three people to go to the NSFA&H Convention in 2019. (After some checking Eugene found that the delegate fees were \$420 for three people, plus two motel rooms for two nights @ \$483.00 for a total of \$903.00.) There were no further questions about the reports.

Business from the Floor: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm after our 50/50 toonie draw and door prize draws. Winners are listed at the head of these minutes in the middle box.

<u>Meeting Dates for 2020</u>: Dates are as follows: Mar. 16, Apr. 13, May 11, Jun. 15, Jul. 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 19 and Dec. 14. Remember there is no meeting in November. <u>Next meeting - Monday night March 16th</u> at 7:00pm. All meetings are held in the Community Room of the Sobey's Store, Bridgewater.

NOTE: The winner of the Trout Tech spinning rod and hard case was Rundell Seaman, one of our newest members. Congratulations Rundell. A new raffle for another Trout Tech rod and hard case will begin right away. If anyone would like tickets please call Stephen or Eugene. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$1.00 each. As soon as these are sold the draw will take place.

- Smile of the Day: - My wife says I have two faults: I don't listen, and something else.

- When I say I will do it, I will do it. There's no need to remind me every month or two.

- Some days the supply of curse words is too small to meet my demands.

- I have sex daily.....I mean dyslexia.

- <u>Thought of the Day:</u> - Buy that fancy pair of shoes. What's the point of being the richest person in the graveyard?

- Accept the mistake, but don't forget the lesson.

- There's a line on the ocean where you can lose a day by crossing it. There's a line on the highway that will buy you a lot longer than that.

- Growing older should take longer.

- I Believe: - Growing up in the sixties was a lot better than living in your sixties.

- One should never look down on anyone, unless you are helping them up.

- Anger is simply punishment we give to ourselves for another's mistakes.

- One should not judge a person by their relatives.