

Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 462
Rockland, MA 02370-0462

Minutes of the meeting on September 14, 2020

Meeting called to order at 9:15 am by President John Kellstrand at the Century Sportsmen's Club.

Send your E-mail addresses to get the minutes electronically. ShootingPete@comcast.net This will help us save in postage.

Roll Call – Quorum present

President's Comment : There are 3 Banquet refunds have not been cashed yet. The website is now suspended. Super Raffle still have two prizes to deliver. Waiting on the Crossbow from Essex Co. Taxes have been filed. Domain Registration will be paid. Montague WebWorks does the website for Conway Sportsmen. We will look at using them to build a site for the Council.

Communications: Democratic nominee for VP, Kamala Harris, asked her Twitter followers to donate to Minnesota Freedom Fund. This fund was used to bail out of jail a woman accused of killing a friend, a suspect who shot at police, a twice convicted sex offender, a twice convicted rapist. This is according to the local FOX News affiliate.

The Worcester Telegram had a nice story about firearms training on August 1. The Sportsman's Alliance is sponsoring the 23rd Annual Northeast Sporting Clays Championships in New Paltz, NY on Sept 19th. F&W Director Tisa reported that the McLaughlin Hatchery Manager, Jim Hahn, retired after 37 years with the Division.

Environmental Police have been extremely busy with an investigation of a person who shot two fawns in NY and brought back to Springfield, citing a dog owner for allowing their dog to chase a moose in the Savoy State Forest, assistance with relocating a bear from I-91 in Holyoke. A spike in ATV use on WMA's, an uptick of fishing violations and officers saving six from a boat fire.

The 2020 Democratic Committee Platform includes: Banning the manufacture and sales of "assault weapons" and high-cap magazines, ending online sales of guns and ammo, expanding the definition of who can lose their guns rights due to a misdemeanor, prioritize repealing the law that shields gun manufacturers from frivolous lawsuits. New Jersey proposed taxes increases from 900 percent to 9900 percent on firearm licenses. As of the middle of August there have been 4,294,411 NICS Check for long gun purchases and 8,139,676 checks for handgun sales. Possibly reaching sales of 20 million for all of 2020. US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi caught violating California rules and said that she didn't know she did anything wrong, then then said she was victim of a setup. The store owner is now closing the store where this happened because of death threats. The NY State lawsuit against the NRA is getting information from a disgruntled ex-employee. Smith-Wesson financial results for their first quarter increased 124% over same period last year. State of Virginia Senate approved a bill to downgrade assaulting a police officer from a felony to a misdemeanor, the VA Governor supports this bill. Finally the best quote I have read, "a mostly peaceful protest" reminds me of that meme that says the surprise Japanese flyover at Pearl Harbor in 1941 was "mostly peaceful", - Massad Ayoob.

Legislation:

H.4346, Town of Mashpee land swap, sent to 3rd Reading. (Trustees, F&W, Barnstable Co League and Council oppose.) Has had no further action.

H.3866, Consolidated Crossbow Bow, no movement in House Ways and Means. Has had no further action

S.471, Hunting from a tree stand was redrafted and merged with 12 other bills. New bill S.2501. Now in Senate Ways and Means. In Senate Ways and Means has had no further action.

S.2253, make up of Ware River Advisory Committee, Engrossed by Senate and no action by the House.

S.2254, Office of Outdoor Recreation, no movement in Senate Ways and Means.

H.767, Creates Sudbury Watershed Advisory Committee in House Ways and Means has no Movement in House Ways and Means.

H. 4610. Hunting in Revere, no movement in House Ways and Means.

H.2881, Add Nips to Bottle Bill. No movement in House Ways and Means.

Hunter Ed – Help is needed for courses on Sept 19/20 and October 3/4 at Field Headquarters. Teaching in small groups of 4-7 students.

A letter from Southeast Representative Ernie Foster for the Fisheries and Wildlife Board will be submitting questions and suggestions for Hunter Education process for educators and participants. This is expected to be a new agenda item for the Board.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Board Vice-Chairman, Mike Roche, says that Hunter Ed has been extremely impacted by the pandemic. Staff has protocols in place to help students finish existing classes and is beginning to roll out new classes with instructors.

Ware River / Quabbin Watershed Advisory – Ware River and Quabbin have had no meetings over the summer.

Marine Fisheries – Public Hearing on Black Sea Bass Commercial Allocation Management on Thursday October 29th in a remote meeting. DMF proposes to Adopt Complementary Limit for the Federal 2020 Winter Scup Quota. Public comment through Friday September 25th.

Forrest and Parks – Forest Fire Hazard reported by Fire Warden Dave Celino. Joshua Hill in Leverett burned for 30 days, Copicut Woods near Fall River burned 28 days and Tully Mountain in Orange burned about 2 weeks. 680 acres have burned.

Budget for 2021 - The same budget numbers will be used as stated for 2020.

Fund Raising - Franklin County was the number one seller of the Super Raffle tickets, Barnstable and Bristol followed.

Shows - Scheduled for 2021. Boxborough (January 29, 30, 31), Springfield (February 19, 20, 21).

Bear Damage Report - In February the Farm Bureau put a report form in their weekly online report for a few weeks. Barnstable had a report of Deer eating Cranberries. Most reports are from Berkshire and Franklin County. There have been no reports from Worcester County. Asked that the Farm Bureau report be added again online until November.

New Business - Website. We will look into a company to create and Host our website.

2021 Elections - Motion to have same officers as 2020. The Council needs help and new blood. Please consider volunteering.

Officers for 2021

President and Treasurer: John Kellstrand

Vice President: Duane Pray

Secretary: Peter Bernard

Adjournment – 11:22 am

Next Meeting – October 4th at Century Sportsman’s Club, Auburn