**Massachusetts Sportsmen’s Council, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 462**

# Rockland, MA 02370-0462

Meeting for February 14, 2021 at 9:09am held via ZOOM by President John Kellstrand

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

Roll Call – quorum

**President’s Comments:** Still want to change to sending minutes electronically. This requires a By-Law change. R3 meeting back in December. Ann Gobi will refile. Ann was replaced as Natural Resource Committee Chair. There is a bill to allow ammunition for hunting which would solve the request forwarded by Barnstable Co. F&W Board meeting on Feb. 17th. The Medina Street Boat ramp was been completed except for parking lot lines being painted. When voting you only need to oppose to be heard to limit confusion online.

**Communication:** NH trying to change the qualification for being a member on the Fish & Game Commission. Hunting Season harvest numbers for Deer / Bear / Turkey. Deputy Commissioner Mary Lee King retired. Record setting 2020 for firearm sales of 21 million with 8.4 million first time buyers. ATF processed 129,792 applications for FFL, 512,315 NFA applications, revoked 49 licenses. 2000+ acres acquired by conservation restriction in Shutesbury, Pelhan, Leverett - The property will continue to be owned and maintained by W.D. Cowls, Inc. of North Amherst as a sustainable working forest.

**Legislation:** Committee assignments being worked on. Leader is set. So far there are 1280 Senate Bills on the docket. There are 13 to be reviewed. Some included Hunter Harassment, Firearm confiscation during an emergency. The salvage/disposition of deer, bear, moose, and fowl. Prohibition of fur products. Crossbow usage change.

The are 1916 House Bills on the docket with 53 to review. Some of these include Ghost guns, 2A rights for medical marijuana users. Control of Tick borne illnesses. Universal background checks and Liability insurance for gun ownership.

A few more committees have been formed.

**Hunter Ed –** The 6 courses scheduled for March 2021, all are full. Todd Olanyk is helping out. Team Leader meeting on February 16th. A few more courses in April being posted this week. HUUGE backlog of course demand because of Covid.

**Ware River / Quabbin Watershed Advisory –** No meeting.

**Marine Fisheries –**  Comment of Black Sea Bass proposed changes. Access Committee information: Deer Island peir is done, Wareham pier rebuild being looked at, a discussion to build pier in Somerset on Taunton River.

**Forrest and Parks –** No report

**Fund Raising -** **Super Raffle 2021**. Some tickets will be mailed to delegates.

**New Business -** Changes requested by Barnstable. Ammo changes has a bill. **By-Law change information to change council publications being mailed. A vote will be held in March 2021.**

Motion to grace dues for 2021. Expenses will be down for the year. Dues received from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Franklin and Essex to be returned.

License Fee increase from F&W discussed. Lifetime License was mention during one of the listening sessions ( This counts as only one license and would reduce the amount of reimbursements from the Fed. ) Fees for 65+ is covered by legislation. Add Pheasant and Trout stamps, increase fees for other stamps. Keep minor, paraplegic and trapping licenses free. Essex sent a letter to F&W regarding fees changing as needed. Discussion about fees for non-sportsmen. Other general discussion on the fees and more quid pro quo from F&W for the sportsmen to support.

We should consider changing the wording in the add we publish in the wildlife abstract.

**Old Business –** Banquet for 2021, **There is no indication that the hall will be available in April. Motion passed to cancel and look for something later in Fall.** How can farmers handle animal damage outside of hunting seasons. We will ask Environmental Police on the rules. Invite Lt Col Loos to the next meeting.

**Good of the Order –** n/a

**Adjournment –** 12:05 am

**Next Meeting –** March 7th with the location to be determined, Zoom or in Auburn.