

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

Minutes of the meeting on April 2, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:04 am by President John Kellstrand via ZOOM.

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

Roll Call – Quorem

President's Comment : Moment of Silence for Frank Leonardo, one of the original founders of the MA Bowhunters. The new banner has not come in yet. Looking for Norfolk and Middlesex Counties to start – very little activity according to Steve T in Norfolk.

Communication: Florida Legislature Passes Permitless Concealed Carry Bill – Headed to Governor Ron DeSantis' Desk, North Carolina Abolishes 104-Year-Old Jim Crow Pistol Permit Law, New Hampshire: House Defeats Another Round of Anti-Gun Bills (carrying firearms at all polling places, repeals the limited liability for manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition, expanded the “safe-school zone” to 1,000 feet surrounding any school or school bus, would have required background checks for the commercial sale of firearms, allowed ex parte orders to suspend Second Amendment rights without adequate due process. \$1.6 Billion Apportioned for Conservation from Pittman Robinson funds, Bloomberg Group Tries to Pass Project ChildSafe Kits as Its Own. There is a meeting this week at Norfolk Aggie regarding Deer Management. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Program reported a 5 year farm bill for Habitat – check into this further, it may not be that good. F&W Board meeting on April 26th with the Migratory Bird Public Hearing in Turners Falls. The next listening session is in Greenfield – date and location TBD. The Bowhunters newsletter was received. Members of the Council attended the Worcester Co League banquet at the end of March.

Legislation: The new Watch List with Bill Numbers and Committee Assignments has been posted to the website. The Budget is being worked on now.

Hunter Ed : No update to report

Ware River / Quabbin Watershed Advisory : The next Ware meeting is on April 20th, 7pm in Rutland. Quabbin next meeting was March 20th access is credit card only, Gate 8 road will be rolled to address the issue with the stone, Gate 43 money's for road repair is pending. Next meeting will be June 5th. Opening will be on April 15th. There is a list of events happening at Quabbin – April to July.

Marine Fisheries : Public Hearing in Plymouth on April 24th / April 25th regarding Proposed Regulatory Amendments for Commercial Menhaden, Summer Flounder, Horseshoe Crab, and Groundfish Management. Size limits on Recreational Black Sea Bass and Scup were announced for 2023.

A 10% harvest reduction, Massachusetts' black sea bass recreational minimum size will increase ½" to 16.5" for 2023.

A regional 10% harvest reduction for 2023, the states of Massachusetts through New York agreed to increase the scup minimum size limit for anglers fishing from vessels (private and for hire) by ½" to 10.5", close the fishery from January–April, and decrease the possession limit during the for-hire vessel "bonus season" (May–June in Massachusetts) to 40 fish.

Forrest and Parks : There are some closures at DCR properties for construction projects, check the DCR website.

Fund Raising : Super Raffle 2021. Tickets are available. The Drawing will be June 4th. Keep on selling.

Banquet: MSC Banquet will be April 29th at the Tuttle Post in Auburn. The raffle and auction prizes are looking good. Bring your money. Tickets are still available, get them now. Discussion on raffle ticket sales. Help to check-in, set-up, photograph, etc is needed.

Bear/Deer Damage Report : There is a meeting on April 6th at Norfolk Aggie regarding Deer Management. You must sign up online to attend. No information for a follow-up meeting with subcommittee members from Fish & Wildlife.

MCA : The raffle tickets are now available for 2023. Drawing will be June 18th. A presentation from HOWLE on a program to create letters to legislators.

New Business - Article 27 on the Town Warrant in Mashpee - Santuit Pond for limiting boat motor size.

Good of the League – NWTF events in in Plymouth on May 7th and in Foxborough on May 13th.
Youth Turkey Training April 15th in Falmouth
Bristol Co League banquet is April 21.
File your Taxes by April 15th
Wild Turkey season opens on April 24th

Adjournment – 11:02 am

Next Meeting – May 7th at location TBD