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

**P.O. Box 462**

# Rockland, MA 02370-0462

Meeting for December 1, 2024 at 9:03am held online via ZOOM,

by President John Kellstrand

Minutes are posted on the MSC website.

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

**President’s Comments –** Taxes have been filed.Annual report filed with Secretary of the Commonwealth. Email from Mike and Sheila Moss. Share the Harvest program in now state wide. MSC Ad for the abstract will be in 2025 again. Trapping regulations on the F&W website show 2023 dates Mark Tisa was sent an email about this. The change to include Chukars on the Winter Hunts should be included in the monthly newsletter and on the website. Salem Willows fishing pier opening tomorrow. The MSC membership from NWTF was renewed.

**Communication –** US Supreme Court will hear case on Maryland’s ban on the AR-15, this could have nation-wide implications. Media and TV News declare that the Atty Gen nominee is someone we need to be afraid of. “We should all fear (her) because she’s competent,” “She is a dangerous and effective pick…”

 Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi conceded that pro-gun voters have a substantial impact on American politics, highlighting the significant role of Second Amendment advocates in shaping legislative outcomes. Recent Gallup polling reveals a decrease in public support for stricter gun control measures, with a notable decline among Democrats. This shift may influence future legislative efforts and political strategies related to firearm regulations. New York non-resident carry ban being challenged because the Second Amendment does not stop at a state line. NICS checks for October were about 5% higher than they were in 2023. F&W Board Meeting in Dalton this week. The Gov. Sargent Award will be given to Gene Chague.

**Legislation -** Bills to file for 2025? There were 93200 signatures collected with 78700 allowed. As the referendum petition contains a sufficient number of certified signatures as required by the Massachusetts Constitution, the question will be printed on the 2026 State Election ballot. The FAQ for Chapter 135 is available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/an-act-modernizing-firearms-laws-guidance-3/download> .

**Hunter Ed / Fisheries & Wildlife –** Basic Hunter Ed classes are done for 2024.New classes are being scheduled for 2025. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/hunting-with-a-firearm-in-massachusetts> .

**Ware River Watershed –** No update. Next meeting January 30, 2025 at the Rutland Free Public Library.

**Quabbin Watershed Advisory –** No update. Next meeting January 6, 2025 at the Quabbin Visitor Center.

**Marine Fisheries –**  The most recent stock assessment conducted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) was released; this report sheds light on the ability of the current coastwide management program to rebuild the stock. Unfortunately, the results of the update are not all promising and there is the prospect of additional striped bass fishery restrictions in the coming years, possibly even in 2025.

**Forrest and Parks –** DCR’s 3.7-mile segment of the Blackstone River Greenway in Blackstone, Millville, and Uxbridge to the Massachusetts/Rhode Island border. Finished one year ahead of schedule, this project adds a half-mile stretch to the Blackstone River Greenway. A wildfire in Sheffield burned 1350 acres.

**New Business –** No response from two locations contacted about info for a banquet. Cape Cod National Seashore Superintendent was asked about Quail hunting on the seashore. There have been habitat improvements. She was asked about the paving of walkways and how this would limit hunting and the Superintendent excused herself from the conversation.

**Old Business** – Shows are booked. The MSC will display at Marlboro, Standish, and Big E.

**Super Raffle Prizes –** Still waiting on commitments from a few organizations.

**Deer/Bear Damage Report –** There is no update for a public hearing on the season change on Black Bear season.

**Good of the Order –** Cranberry Longbeards Banquet is on March 8th.

**Adjournment –** 12:02 pm

**Next Meeting –** January 5th, via Zoom.