

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

Meeting for October 6, 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 – Chapter 135. HSUS deer population control pilot program in NY will dart deer with contraceptives.

Communication – Hamden Co League is reorganizing. The Massachusetts Ethics Commission has issued a public education letter to Ware Police Chief Shawn Crevier. New Presidential Executive Order. October 4th from Fisheries & Wildlife listening Session on Trout Stocking in the Deerfield River, Oct 17th 1pm and 6pm. Machine Gun range at JBCC has been stopped by Governor Healy. How to participate in the JBCC Controlled Hunt. Veterans Hunt coming up. FBI crime stats show a 11.6% drop in murder even though the Constitutional Carry rose to 29 states. NRA-ILA announced pending legal challenge against Governor Healy's emergency preamble on Chapter 135. State Rep publicly stated opinion on the new Gun Law. Cabela's in Maine will not sell firearms to MA residents.

Legislation - Chapter 135. How can the Governor attach an emergency preamble without legislative approval? MA State Police and EOPPS delaying implementation of parts of Chapter 135. A CT resident and Hampden Delegate asked the Firearms Record Bureau in Chelsea about non-resident hunting and was told the contact a lawyer. Firearms Records Bureau at (617) 660-4782 or mass.gov/firearms-services for information regarding firearms licenses and firearms laws for the Commonwealth.

Hunter Ed / Fisheries & Wildlife – The September F&W Board Meeting had three topics of sportsman's interest.

- A Review of Black Bear was presented. If farmers do not call in with complaints not ask for assistance no problem exists. Goal to stabilize the bear population at 5000-5500 animals. Hunting season extension voted and passed. Now this needs to go to public hearing. Any other change will wait until two seasons after this extension.
- Thermal Imaging Aids for Hunting for big game impacts fair chase and will be prohibited. This also going to public hearing.
- Review on the new firearms law and how it affects Mass Wildlife Programs. Restrictions on semiauto firearms needing an LTC and being 21+ years old. Non-Resident Hunting. Furnishing a Firearm. Hunter Ed course is only valid for an FID.

Hunter Ed says nothing in the new law will require changes to the courses, "we will teach and evaluate our students as we always have by focusing on the IHEA standardized curriculum which includes Semiauto firearms". Further review is being done by the legal council.

Staff trapped New England Cottontail Rabbit from No Man's NWR. Staff members assisted in fighting wildfires in the western US in July and August. Habitat Management Grant submission deadline is October 17th.

Ware River Watershed – No update

Quabbin Watershed Advisory – No update

Marine Fisheries – No recreational changes. Hearing on Commercial Summer Flounder on Nov 4th at 6pm in New Bedford. Tautog closing today.

Forrest and Parks – DCR Stewardship Committee meeting on October 11th at 9am. Wachusett FY25 Forestry lot proposals on October 8th at 6:30pm in West Boylston.

New Business – Thank you letter received from scholarship recipient. A new banquet location will have to be found. Meeting held with Cape Cod National Seashore was held on October 3rd. It was well attended. Homework needs to be done. Nothing will be hunted this year on the seashore.

Old Business – Contracts for the shows will be sent in.

Super Raffle Prizes – Only four county leagues sold tickets. Prize commitments needed now.

Deer/Bear Damage Report – New proposal for extended bear hunting should be extended into Primitive Arm season. The best option would be to bring this up when the public hearing happens.

Election of Officers 2024/25 – President: John Kellstrand
Vice President: Dave Harbison
Treasurer: John Kellstrand
Secretary: Peter Bernard

Adjournment – 12:12 pm

Next Meeting – November 3rd, via Zoom. Also, Daylight Savings takes effect this day.