

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

Meeting for April 11, 2021 at 9:03am 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 - Jack Coughlin is still in the hospital after his accident. There is a GOFUNDME account to help Jack come home - <https://gofund.me/cdf716a0> . Instead of Earth Day in Agawam it will be Jack Coughlin Appreciation Day. The Medina Street Boat Ramp in Chicopee might be renamed in his honor. (post script: Jack passed away on April 18). F&W Board on April 23rd. The Migratory Bird Hearing will be before the monthly meeting.

Communication - A new Rasmussen Survey (March 2021) may have just provided a needle to pop their bubble as a majority of "likely U.S. voters say it is not possible to completely prevent mass shootings like the ones in" Atlanta and Boulder. The specific question of whether stricter gun control laws would help prevent mass shootings", 51% of voters say no, 39% say yes. The Pennsylvania Game Commission has given preliminary approval to expand Sunday hunting in 2021. We received the 2020 Division of Ecological Restoration annual report. Fake ammunition scammers are posing as online retail storefronts and aiming to steal your cash and personal information with too-good-to-be-true ammo deals and offers. In March 2021 there were pistols, over 1.1 million, with about 670,000 rifles, the remainder being classified as other and multiple sales. This is down 20% from March 2020. Types Of Guns Used In Mass Public Shootings 1998 Through March 2021: Handgun 55%, Rifle only (including AR and AK) 11%, Shotgun 4%. Combination of firearms 30%. This count was reported by the Crime Prevention Research Center. VT has Bill S.129, and it would legislate anti-hunters onto the Fish and Wildlife Board. It removes the current system in favor of a system that allows legislators to appoint a full 2/3 of a new board that would be established.

Legislation - There are only a few bill numbers posted. 2377 bills in the Senate, reviewed 44. 4476 House bills and 90 pulled out for review. A report saying bills may be acted on without hearings. The Legislative Watch List has been posted to our website. House Budget due for release this week. There are plenty of complaints about the state House being closed. Trapping bills in VT and NY. In Woodstock, CT the beaver problem is increasing. The NIP bottle bill now has 31 sponsors. The updated Watch List has been posted to the web site.

Hunter Ed – Secretary Bernard was a volunteer instructor at multiple Basic Hunter Ed field days in March. The F&W Team has done a great job for doing courses. During the 3 days I was there about 120. The totally online course is under review.

The NWTF learn to hunt course for adults was held last weekend, the course filled up in 24 hours. Youth Day course is online.

Ware River / Quabbin Watershed Advisory – No meeting.

Marine Fisheries –

DMF Hearings.

New Buoy Line Marking Rules for Commercial Lobster and Crab Trap Fishery

DMF Advisories.

Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock Limit

DMF to Temporarily Lift the Massachusetts Bay Commercial Groundfish Closure for April 2021

REMINDER OF SEASONAL SMALL VESSEL SPEED LIMIT IN CAPE COD Bay

2021 Horseshoe Crab Lunar Spawning Closure Date

Effective April 11 the Period I Summer Flounder Trip Limit Reduced to 100 Pounds and Pilot Program to Conclude

Updated Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission Business Meeting Schedule

New Prohibition on Trapping Blue Crab

Forrest and Parks – DCR will begin offering shoreline fishing at the Quabbin Reservoir on Saturday, April 17. (DCR) announced it is accepting applications for the Fiscal Year 2022 Partnership Matching Funds Program. The program assists in the financing of capital projects throughout the state parks system that are proposed by civic and community organizations, park advocacy groups, businesses, institutions, municipal governments, and dedicated individuals with an interest in enhancing the Commonwealth's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Fund Raising - Super Raffle 2021. Tickets are available. The drawing will be postponed one month and held at the June 2021 meeting. Delegates let us know how many you need.

New Business - The MA Conservation Alliance is seeking a donation for Lobbying efforts. Vote approved for \$2500. Minutes will now be posted to the website and mailed to the delegates.

Deer/Bear Damage Report – A list of damage has been collected for 2018, 2019, 2020. The Damage for the 3 years is now reported over \$1.1M. Farmers in Franklin and Berkshire would probably like a season starting in August according to Delegate Don Graves. Very little information for Cranberry growers and eastern MA farms. The MA Bear Biologist Dave Wattles said he had little information about bear damage on farms. The report was sent to him. It would be nice to have an open bear season from the beginning of archery to the close of Muzzleloader.

Good of the Order – NWTF in Foxboro will have a Baquet/Auction/Raffle at the Lafayette House on May 22. Go to www.NWTF.Org/Events

Adjournment – 11:20 pm

Next Meeting – May 2nd with the location to be determined, Zoom or in Auburn.