

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

Minutes of the meeting on May 7, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:00 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.

MSROB : for meeting with new Fish & Game Commissioner, Tom O'Shea.

Greetings and Introductions. After a 10 year stint with the Trustees Tom is returning. Tom was with the Department for 15 years before as a Forester, District Manager and Asst Director. Opportunity for further land acquisition, ecological restoration, address climate change challenges, raise the flag for conservation, biodiversity, more outdoor recreation. Strengthen funding opportunities for the department. He is in listening mode right now. The Council will help Tom get up to speed in whatever is needed.

President's Comment : Family Fishing Day to learn how to Surf Fish in Provincetown on June 10th. Pre-registration is needed go to WWW.MBBA.NET . The NWTF has gotten approval a License Plate. WMA Clean ups have started. Board Meeting will be on May 16th at 9am.

Communication : Article regarding President Biden banning hunting and fishing on some federal properties, This needs more details and be watched.

The MSC Secretary was busy with multiple banquets and not able to assemble.

Legislation : House has finished their Budget. It has 1600 amendments. All sportsmen amendments did pass. One amendment was to rename the Inland Fish & Game Fund to the George L. Deary Inland Fish & Game Fund. Another amendment was to add \$200K to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species. Another amendment would have pleased Jack Coughlin – the deposit on liquor nip bottles passed the House. An amendment that all agency that has CMR's that the rules will be posted on the website for free and you no longer have to purchase them. One amendment we don't like is to add \$500K to Mass Audubon for the Blue Hills Trailside Museum because Audubon charges admission. Giving Tax payer monies to private organizations isn't right.

The watch list is posted on the MSC website. The Senate Budget is still being worked on.

Hunter Ed : No update to report

Ware River / Quabbin Watershed Advisory : The next meeting for Ware River is May 18th. DCR still has not changed their recommendations on the watershed plan. No report for Quabbin available.

Marine Fisheries : **Change for Recreational Stripe Bass, the slot limit was changed to 28" up to 31"**. New updates for Cod, Haddock, Scup and Black Sea Bass by location for Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank.

The DMF office on Causeway St, Boston will no longer sell recreational or commercial permits for saltwater.

Salem Willows Fishing Pier going to bid later this year. Land Management Agreements with Fall River and Somerset. Somerset near Brightman St Bridge plans include a parking area, Kayak/Canoe launch, fishing pier and a recreation park area. On Fall River a fishing platform to extend past the rocky edge of the Taunton River and closer to the main channel. Small Grant Projects include Barnstable Harbor boat ramp, Cohasset canoe/kayak launch, Newburyport installation of lights at pier.

Forrest and Parks : There are some closures at DCR properties for construction and maintenance 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 was held on April 29th at the Tuttle Post in Auburn. It was an excellent event. The next banquet is planned for April 13, 2024.

Bear/Deer Damage Report : No update. The current report will be sent to Commissioner O'Shea.

MCA : The raffle tickets are now available for 2023. Drawing will be June 18th.

New Business : Santuit Pond motor size regulation restrictions to 10hp passed in the town warrant. Owners of unleashed Dogs on Crane WMA are getting warnings by EPO's. Dave Harbison has volunteered to fill the open office of MSC Vice President, M/S/P. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed the Banning the hunting and training with dogs in the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge in VT.

Good of the League : The Super Raffle will be held at the June meeting.

Adjournment : 12:01 PM

Next Meeting : June 4th at location the Century Sportsmen's Club.