



## **Plymouth County League of Sportsmen**

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**Standish Sportsman's Assoc.**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**At 7:00 pm we began our monthly business meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all our family and friends who have died and for Service Men and Women in our Armed Forces that have died or have been injured to protect our Country.**

**Opening Statement:** President Paul Johnson welcomed all in attendance at the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen April meeting and thanked the Standish Sportsman's Assoc. for a wonderful meal. SSA delegate John Fabroski spoke on behalf of the SSA welcoming all in attendance and thanked the PCLS for all they do for the sportsmen and hoped that everyone enjoyed their meal. President Johnson also thanked the SSA chef for a wonderful meal and thanked SSA for all the work that they do in support of sportsmen and sportswomen. President Johnson read a thank you note from Treasurer Dee Bonney for the Lifetime Achievement Award she received at the annual banquet.

**Roll Call:** There were 31 delegates representing 15 clubs and organizations in attendance along with 7 guest.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bonney gave a complete report on our finances. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.

**Bills to be paid:** A motion to approve payment of bills from the banquet at the discretion

of and in amounts approved by the treasurer. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve.

**Secretary's Report:** The February meeting minutes were accepted as published by a motion that was seconded and passed.

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report:** Jason Zimmers reported Large Trout are being stocked for Earth Day in Long Pond and Little Pond in Plymouth. Brush cutting ongoing at Erwin Wilder WMA. Storm cutting at Tispaquin Boat Ramp. Annual boundary marking and trash pick up is underway at WMA's in the district. The Dog Regulations on WMA's are working their way through the legal department on their way to being published as official regulations. Millbrook Bog restoration project is in the design phase. A controlled burn was conducted at Crane WMA in Falmouth. The spring Eagle survey has been completed. Jason noted there are a number of nests in the SE District. He was treated to a ride in a Black Hawk helicopter searching for a specific suspected nest without success. Eider banding coming up. He also mentioned the Whitman Pond Family Fishing event. The Burrage Pond parking area land acquisition adds another 170 feet of frontage. This acquisition should be complete in late June. For a complete report please review the supplement at end of minute report.

**Communications:** President Johnson informed us that a communication received by Ross Kessler, MDMF Biologist, stated there has been some discussion at Marine Fisheries resulting from our letter although the league has yet to receive an official reply. No action required or taken. A meeting with the Executive Board of Mattapoissett Fin Fur and Feather has been scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 7:00 pm. President Johnson updated the league on the acquisition of new property abutting the parking area of Burrage pond. This property acquisition should improve the parking situation considerably.

**Seven Man Board Report:** For a review of the complete latest published report go to our web site.

**Legislative Report:** The public Hearing at the DFW Headquarters in Westborough at 3 pm April 10 for waterfowl was attended lightly John Kellstrand Mass Sportsmen's council spoke in favor of the regulations as written President Johnson and Carver delegate Bob Verzone both spoke on behalf of the regulations. Most of the discussion on

the Board was concerning the start date for the season in the Coastal zone. They set opening day for Duck; Berkshire as Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Central; as Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and Coastal; as Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The later date for Coastal was based on input that coastal hunters preferred added time in January. Main impact of other changes Early Goose limit from 5-7 with extended hours. Regular Goose limit reduced from 3 to 2. Black Duck limit stays at 2. Motion was approved as amended by the Seven Person Board. President Johnson thanked Bob Verzone for going to and speaking at the hearing. The public hearing regarding the expansion of archery deer season in zones 10-14 was held April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Sportsmen were well represented by count President Johnson reported that Pro extension people outnumbered those opposed by 28 to 7. Speakers on the sportsmen's side did a great job. President Johnson thanked Carver Delegates Larry Harju, Dick Thorne, Bob Verzone, Carver club members Kevin Sullivan & Tom Pozerski as well as Holbrook delegate Doug Toomey for taking the time to attend the hearing representing sportsmen. President Johnson noted that he received much feedback on the quality of sportsmen contribution to the debate and that the members of the Seven Person Board appreciate the effort.

**Massachusetts Conversation Alliance:** President Johnson attended a meeting of the Mass Sportsman's County League Coalition Group on Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at the Marlboro Fish & Game Association, 1 Muddy Ln, Marlborough, MA 01752, USA The group adopted the name Mass Conservation Alliance. The main outcome of the meeting was to select the Crossbow bill S.2249 as the legislation most likely to succeed in the present atmosphere on Beacon Hill. The Bill has already passed the Senate and now is in the House Ways and Means Committee. The group decided to shoot for early to mid-May for a barrage of calls, letters and emails to the legislature to push this bill over the top. President Johnson read a draft letter to the membership. Motion to approve draft letter seconded and approved. The group also requested feed back on what the top 3 priorities should be for 2018/2019. President Johnson put the following out for discussion. Create an Omnibus bill that can be supported by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Governor which should include removing legislative prohibition on Sunday hunting. Create a Gun License application starting point which is measurable and uniform throughout the state. The goal would be to be able to measure and hold all parties to the statutory time limits in the licensing statutes ie 40 days. Establish the Division of Fish and Wildlife as the statutory authority for determining and regulating the implements used in hunting, fishing and trapping. Ie removing these issues from the legislative arena. Motion and second to approve the three priorities discussed. Motion passes

**Old Business:** The banquet was attended by 138 people. It appeared that we had more attendees in spite of not having the Braintree Rifle and Pistol club. State Rep. Susan

Gifford and her husband Mark, Jim Wallace, Executive Director of GOAL, his wife and Grand Nephew, State Rep. Keiko Orrall and her husband Norman, MDF&W Director Jack Buckley, MDF&W Commissioner Ronald Amidon, Ross Kessler and John Boardman, Biologists from Marine Fisheries, candidate for US Senate Geoff Diehl, and the Worcester County League of Sportsmen. President Emeritus John Fabroski commented on the quality of the event, the amount and quality of raffle prizes. He indicated that the event this year should engender good participation next year. He congratulated all that participated in making the event possible.

**New Business:** President Johnson asked for a motion creating a nominating committee of 5 members Two members selected by the President and 3 members elected by the delegates for 2108/2019 officers and executive Board members as required in Article VII Section 1. The Committee is charged with proposing Nominations for President Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as well (5) delegates who will serve as members of the executive Committee (executive Board consists of the President Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediate past President and five elected delegates. President Johnson informed the delegates that his nominations for nominating committee will be John Fabroski and Mike Armburg. President Johnson requested a motion for three members of the nominating committee to be selected by the delegates tonight. Elections are to be held at the June meeting and term starts at the September meeting Ref. Article IX Section 6. Motion to approve three delegates nominated by the delegates. Larry Harju, Ed Birch and Justine Jerome. Motion seconded and approved. Committee will include President Johnson's appointees John Fabroski and Mike Armburg. President Johnson requested volunteers for a committee to review and recommend changes to the PCLS bylaws for our September 2018 meeting, as requested by Fin Fur and Feather. Motion by Larry Harju to form a 5 member By-Law Review Committee consisting of Paul Johnson, Dee Bonney, Susan Fernandes, Joe Gilmartin and Dave Swanson to report results to the September PCL meeting. Motion seconded and approved. President Johnson mentioned the need to find someone willing and capable of stepping up as Secretary of the League. He also indicated that Mike Armburg is willing to work with the new secretary. He also indicated that use of written agenda done by the President will reduce the amount of work required to produce minutes. New secretary should have computer skills with a word processor.

**Good of the Order:** . . Carver Sportsman Club is conducting a Youth Turkey hunt for youth ages 12-17 who have taken a hunter ed class are eligible, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please contact Paul Johnson at 508-241-2333. Please check our website for up coming Trout Unlimited events. There is a saltwater fishing show at Throwbridge Café which is open free of charge on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Next Meeting is May16th, 2018 at the Upland

Sportsmen's Club 76 Upland Road Plympton, MA.

**Adjournment:** The meeting came to a close at 8:45 pm. Our next meeting will be at the Standish Sportsman Assoc., April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 located 1 Burr Ln. East Bridgewater, Ma. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm

Meeting minutes created by President Johnson.

PCLS Secretary

*Mike Armburg*

## **Southeast District Activities – April 2018**

**Wildlife** – The District Supervisor and Biologist, as members of the agency's Large Animal Response Team (LART) responded to reports of a deer that had gotten inside the Brockton Veteran's Administration Hospital facility. Upon arrival, we convened with officers from the Massachusetts Environmental Police and established a plan. By that point, local animal control had gotten the deer outside, but it was still in a very confined courtyard area with no safe escape route, so the intent was to chemically immobilize the animal and transport it to a safe location for release. The plan worked out well, and the 2 year old buck was treated for injuries sustained when breaking through a window into the building and successfully released into a local WMA. District staff are making preparations and lining up a schedule to complete common eider banding at a number of sites along the coastline from Boston Harbor south to the Rhode Island border. Staff will access many of the sites via boat and work in crews of 4-5 individuals to capture hen eiders on or when flushed from their nests. In addition to banding the eiders, we may also be taking blood samples for ongoing DNA and disease research. Staff have responded to a number of injured animal calls in the past month, including several reports of injured raptors. One situation involved a weekend call regarding young owlets on the ground that were then taken into possession by the landowner, who was refusing to put them back into the woods as directed by MassWildlife (adults will continue to feed and protect them on the ground). Following a site visit, the landowner agreed to place the birds on top of a wood pile at the edge of the woods and the adult owls immediately began feeding and protecting the young. An injured herring gull was reported on the edge of the Cape Cod Canal. The District Biologist responded to find out it was actually a common eider hen that had fishing line wrapped around its legs and wing. He captured the bird, removed the line and released it.

**Fisheries** – Trout stocking is progressing well and all ponds and streams in the Southeast District have now received at least one load of fish (most have received multiple loads). Trout stocking reports will be updated daily at the [Mass.gov/trout](http://Mass.gov/trout) web page. A list and map of trout stocked waters will be available on the trout page with the date and species of trout stocked. District staff have been regularly visiting our Red Brook WMA in an effort to ensure passage of herring into White Island Pond. The WMA sustained some significant damage during the late winter storms and staff have had to install check dams and fences to make sure that fish can safely pass the new channel through the former bog complex. District staff continued to monitor the ongoing restoration project at the Coonamesset River.

**Natural Heritage** – District staff participated in our annual Spring Bald Eagle

survey, documenting birds back at all of our known nest locations. We have also confirmed chicks in a number of nests and are beginning the scheduling process for climbing the trees and banding chicks. Further, the District Supervisor and Wildlife Biologist were able to go up in an Army Black Hawk helicopter during one of their training flights and survey much of the upper Cape in search of the first confirmed eagle nest on Cape Cod since 1905. Unfortunately, we were not able to locate the nest, but we remain confident there is a nest somewhere in the Mashpee/Sandwich area. Please continue to report sightings of eagles to the Division. Planning is underway for the 10-year colonial waterbird nesting survey, where all known colonial bird nesting sites along the Massachusetts coastline will be surveyed by staff and other cooperators to document nesting activity by species such as gulls, cormorants, herons, egrets and common eider. That project will be completed during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of May.

**Land Management/Stewardship** – The mowing at our Erwin Wilder WMA that was not completed this winter will be scheduled in within the next few weeks, as several fields were left un-mowed to provide adequate cover for the special winter upland game hunting program. Our annual spring prescribed fire season is underway. We were able to complete an approximately 117- acre prescribed burn in the grassland at our Frances A. Crane WMA and also completed a prescribed burn at our Penikese Island Wildlife Sanctuary. Other prescribed burns are planned this spring at Camp Edwards, Frances A. Crane WMA, Southeast Pine Barrens WMA and Camp Cachalot WCE. One of the District technicians is currently working at the latter two properties with our Terex machine cutting in and preparing fire breaks. Staff are currently working with our Habitat Program, the Division of Ecological Restoration and NRCS to redesign the restoration project at our Mill Brook Bogs WMA. This project will now be a whole site restoration that will include upland forest/barrens habitat improvements, stream channel restoration and restoration of former wetlands, including significant Atlantic white cedar swamp. We now have a consultant on board working to complete a new set of project plans. An RFR is nearly complete and ready to be posted to remove hundreds of windblown trees from our Frances A. Crane WMA, caused by the late winter storms. This project is needed to allow for safe prescribed burning activities. Further, many of the larger trees will be removed with their root balls attached and transported to the Coonamesset River Restoration Project to be used as woody material in the stream and wetland restoration areas. Two projects that went out to bid have been awarded: an invasive control project covering about 10 acres at our Burrage Pond WMA aimed at eliminating *Calamagrotis* and an erosion control and native tree/shrub planting project along the new Red Brook channel at our Red Brook WMA. Boundary marking continues, both with District staff and contractors, on several WMAs. Further, trash pickup is a daily/weekly routine

this time of year, as accumulated items become visible after snows melt and spring cleanups lead to a lot of illegal dumping. At long last, the Burrage Pond WMA roadway and parking restoration and maintenance project has an anticipated start date of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please be advised that the roadway and parking area will likely be closed for all or part of the construction period for safety and logistical reasons. Another piece of good news is that MassWildlife has reached agreement with the Town of Halifax to purchase 17 acres of land abutting the roadway, with an additional 100 feet of road frontage that will further protect the WMA.

**Outreach/Notable Meetings** – The public hearing for both the 2018-19 waterfowl regulations and the proposed two week extension of the archery deer season in Zones 10-14 were held at our field headquarters in Westborough on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and 7pm, respectively. There was a decent turnout for the waterfowl hearing and a large (~80-90 people) turnout for the archery hearing. The Board made on change to the waterfowl regulations based on public comments, changing the opening day for the central and western zones to be consecutive days instead of one the same day. It was also taken under advisement that multiple comments from the Southeast District regarding the earlier start to the second part of the season. The Board committed to taking a very close look at that over the next year and to survey hunters to possibly make changes to the start of the second season. The archery hearing saw a lot of support from hunters from across the State for the proposed 2-week extension, with about 7 comments in opposition, mainly coming from individuals/organizations that voiced opposition to all hunting, however one hunter from the northeastern part of the State was opposed due to concerns about an influx of new hunters and increased difficulty in funding hunting areas. It is anticipated that the Board will vote on this change at their next meeting in May. The District Supervisor met with staff from Camp Edwards regarding the upcoming controlled hunting programs, as well as to discuss ways to improve communication with sportsmen and to improve their understanding of how the base operates. MassWildlife arranged for the base staff to attend two Barnstable County League meetings a year, beginning this month. The Camp Edwards Controlled Hunting Program 2018 dates are as follows. The registration form can be found on our website at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/participate-in-the-camp-edwards-controlled-hunting-program> Alternatively, folks can pre-register online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIG-YkwZomvjg8bfzaJrGhIU9lu5-2ofDyduZvFCkr3cY3w/viewform?c=0&w=1>

**The 2018 Hunting Dates are as follows:** Youth Turkey Hunt: Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Spring Turkey Hunt: Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> through Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Youth Deer Hunt: Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Paraplegic Deer Hunt: Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> through Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, Archery Deer

Scouting: Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Scouting Hours 8:00 am-12:00pm, Check in/out at Range Control Archery Deer Hunt: Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> through Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Military Deer Hunt: Friday November 30<sup>th</sup> through Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Shotgun Deer Hunt: Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> through Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and Muzzleloader Deer Hunt: Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The next Fisheries and Wildlife Board meeting will be held on May 16th in the Western District. There are two upcoming Family Fishing Events hosted by MassWildlife's Angler Education Program, one on May 20th at Whitmans Pond in Weymouth and one on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at Johnson Pond in Raynham. These are free events for the whole family to learn the basics of fishing. Reminder that the Youth Turkey Hunt is Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (for those youths that have been through the youth turkey hunting program at a club). Regular spring turkey opens on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.