



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen
@
Old Colony Sportsmen Association
March 20, 2019

At 7:07 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 Johnson welcomed all in attendance at the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen March meeting held at Old Colony Sportsmen Association. Club Representative, Tom Hammond spoke on behalf of the club welcoming all in attendance and thanked the PCLS for all they do for the sportsmen and hoped that everyone enjoyed their meal. PCLS President Johnson thanked the kitchen crew for a wonderful meal and thanked Old Colony Sportsmen Association for all the work that they do in support of sportsmen and sportswomen.

Roll Call: There were 35 delegates and 2 guests representing 14 clubs and organizations in attendance.

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: There were no bills presented for payment. A Motion was made, seconded, and passed to make our annual donations to Gun Owners of America, US Sportsmen Alliance, NRA-ILA, Com 2A, and Goal for our annual affiliation. A second motion was made, seconded and passed to make a donation to the Old Colony Sportsmen Association Rifle team in Memory of Loring Hall.

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

Communications: Fin, Fur & Feather Club of Mattapoissett presents the 5th annual Walter Gajewski Trout fishing derby on April 14, 2019. Contact Scott @ 774-271-0485 or Hank @ 508-728-0372 for details and registration. There will be a Fish and Game day scheduled at the State House on May 22, 2019. President Johnson and Secretary Birch will attend the Worcester County Banquet on March 23, 2019. President Johnson reached out to Braintree Rifle and Pistol President Eric Goldmen. Braintree Rifle and Pistol has paid their dues and rejoined the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen.
Welcome Back Braintree.

Special Guest: Ross Kessler and John Boardman from Marine Fisheries both attended the March meeting.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Report given by Jason Zimmer. Staff is busy with trout stocking which will continue for the next 1- 1 ½ months. Staff is also preparing for Summer burns on various WMDA's. Presentation was given on proposed Turkey regulation changes at last board meeting. A change in allowable shot size used for Turkey hunting is also being considered. Maintenance work is being done on Wood Duck boxes. Public hearing on migratory bird regulations for the 2019/2020 season will be held at field headquarters in Westborough on April 18, 2019 @ 11:00 am. The issue of the National Park Service phasing out Pheasant stocking on the Cape Cod National Seashore has come up again. There is nothing the DWF can do to stop the plan. The Coyote hunting contest on the Cape is a source of controversy again and many anti hunters and activists are calling for a ban on contests and all predator hunting. An effort is being made to push for a Massachusetts Carnivore Conservation Act by many anti hunters both on and off Cape. A presentation on Coyotes with a

question and answer session will be given at Cape Cod Community College on April 4, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. in building #6 Lecture hall A. Jason will send out a notice with details, where to park, etc. Issues concerning piping plovers and beach access as well as predator management programs on beaches have started again. Duxbury State Beach Reservation is private, nonprofit and predator management is not done by DWF.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries: Report given by Ross Kessler. The sale of fishing permits directly helps with obtaining more public access. Projects funded for fy19 include lighting at Lynn Heritage State Park pier, new planking on the pier next to harbor master's office in Beverly, kayak racks at Green Harbor and Peter Igo park in Marshfield, and lighting at Gifford St boat ramp in New Bedford. Vineyard Wind is still in the permitting phase and construction should begin next summer. Site work will be completed this summer in Cape Cod Bay for an artificial reef. A staging location has been secured in New Bedford and discarded material from Mass. DOT is being received. New fish counters are being installed in Orleans Pilgrim Lake, Brewster's Stony Brook, and Harwich's herring river. Forge Pond Dam will receive a temporary fish ladder this year and a permanent one next year. Town Brook in Plymouth will receive an eel ramp at Jenny Grist Mill. Outer Cape towns along with the park service have hired Woods Hole Group to assess options and feasibility for managing beaches with seals and sharks. The study will explore feasibility, cost, and permitting for strategies like drones, sonar, fencing and culling. The proposed changes to fisheries are: No changes to Striped Bass this year but most likely there will be changes next year. Fluke, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Tautog, and Weakfish will most likely not have any changes. Gulf of Maine Cod- 1 fish @ 21" with season last two weeks of April and September. Gulf of Maine Haddock- 15 fish @ 17" with fall closure revised to last two weeks of September and all of October. Georges Bank and Southern New England Cod- 10 fish @ 21" Haddock- unlimited @ 18". If you get stopped and questioned by an MRIP sampler take the time to answer questions. Samplers will be using tablets this year to collect data. Remember no data or bad data will hurt anglers worse than good data.

Seven Person Board Report: President Johnson will draft a letter supporting proposed Water fowl regulation changes and present it at next board meeting.

Legislative Report: Legislation is now being assigned numbers. Bills pertaining to Trapping are: SD 1015, SD 994, HD 2144. Bills pertaining to hunting are SD1190, SD 989, HD 804, HD 1267. The Outdoor Heritage Act is SD 944. The Governor's budget has been sent to the House of Representatives with language pertaining to Sunday hunting. Section 52 would allow the director of Mass. Fish and Game to authorize hunting of deer with bow and arrow on Sundays. Archery hunting proposed set back of 250 ft. from an elevated platform has been sent to the Governor but has no bill number yet.

Massachusetts Conservation Alliance: The next meeting is March 26, 2019 at Wildlife headquarters in Westborough. President Johnson read the MCA mission document and MCA statement of principles. After discussion a motion was made, amended, seconded and passed to sign both documents. MCA is developing a web site www.massconservationalliance.com

Old Business: Attorney Edward George sent documents for President Johnson and President Emeritus Fabroski to sign. The documents were signed and returned. Expectation is that the entire Charter and Annual filing process will conclude shortly.

New Business: President Johnson read a letter that he drafted, to FCC Opposing license renewal for radio station WBUR. The station aired a gun control forum where no representatives, sportsmen or gun owners were invited. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to send the letter. A brief discussion on the possibility of PCLS printing and sending out a monthly newsletter. Updates to our website are in progress.

Annual Banquet: Saturday April 6, 2019 at the Monponsett Inn in Halifax, Mass. Cocktail hour starts at 6 pm. and dinner will be served at 7 PM. A final count has been given and no further tickets are available for the banquet. Raffle tickets are still available and will also be sold at the banquet. Invitations were mailed out to guests to be invited to the banquet.

Good of the Order: Mass Striped Bass Sport Fishing Expo is March 30-31, 2019 in Pembroke, Mass. The Mass Sportsmen Council banquet is April 13, 2019. The 5th Annual Walter Gajewski Trout Fishing derby is April 14, 2019.

Adjournment: The meeting came to an end at 8:58 pm. Our next meeting will be at Standish Sportsmen's Association, 1 Burr Ave. in East Bridgewater on April 17, 2019. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

PCLS Secretary

Ed Birch

