



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

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Old Colony Sportsmens Assoc.

March 28th, 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 March meeting and thanked the Old Colony Sportsmens Assoc. for a wonderful meal and for being flexible for changing our meeting date due to the weather. OCSA member Tom Hammond spoke on behalf of the OCSA welcoming all in attendance and thanked the PCLS for all they due for the sportsmen and hoped that everyone enjoyed their meal. President Johnson also thanked the OCSA chef for a wonderful meal and thanked OCSA for all the work that they do in support of sportsmen and sportswomen.

Roll Call: There were 35 delegates representing 15 clubs and organizations in attendance along with 1 guest.

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

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

Bills to be paid: There were two bills presented to be paid. One for secretarial expenses and one for coping expenses. A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmers monthly report, *Southeast District Activities* – March 2018 Wildlife – American black duck banding for the 2018 winter season concluded with District staff banding 403 black ducks, which was the most of any State in the Atlantic Flyway. The Public Hearing to discuss proposed regulatory changes which would extend the deer archery season by two weeks in WMZs 10 – 14 has been postponed until April 10th, 2018 at 7 PM at the MassWildlife Field Headquarters in Westboro. The Hearing to set migratory bird season dates will be held at 3 PM on the same date. The Turkey Review is ongoing and was discussed extensively at the most recent Senior Staff meeting. Turkey Project Leader Dave Scarpitti presented on a wide variety of turkey related issues, focusing on the request by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board to explore the potential for expanded turkey hunting recreational opportunities. Extending the hunting season, hours and bag limits were all discussed. District staff trapped three additional New England cottontail rabbits at study sites on Cape Cod and affixed satellite transmitter collars on them as part of a collaborative study with the Camp Edwards Natural Resource Program looking at habitat use and movement patterns. Coyote hunting season closed on March 8th, 2018. District staff has collected all materials from our coyote check stations and have forwarded the data to our fur-bearer biologist for summary/analysis. The District staff has continued to field a number of calls from the public relative to a coyote hunting contest on Cape Cod and has provided regulatory and other information to interested individuals. An injured loon was captured in Fairhaven and taken to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for evaluation and treatment. **Fisheries** – Trout stocking commenced during the week of March 12th, 2018 with the following lakes and ponds receiving fish: Mashpee-Wakeby, Peters, Long (Plymouth), Hamblin, Shubael, Ashumet and Johns. Rainbow Trout from the Sandwich Hatchery are the first fish to hit local waters. Trout stocking reports will be updated daily at the 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. During the worst of the recent nor'easters, we lost power at the Sandwich Fish Hatchery and the main backup generator (which is tested and run for an hour weekly) failed, resulting in a loss of fresh water flow to about half of the hatchery. Hatchery staff and several District staff responded in the very early morning hours, during the height of the storm, and worked diligently to remedy the situation and were prepared to begin emergency stocking of fish. Luckily, we were able to get a second backup generator

hauled to the facility and restored water flow before too many fish were lost. As a result, a very minimal number of fish were lost (less than 5%). District staff continued to monitor the ongoing restoration project at the Coonamesset River, as well as the water levels and Herring run at White Island Pond/Red Brook. Natural Heritage – Bald Eagles have been documented back on their nesting territories at multiple locations including Great Quitacus, Pocksha, North Watuppa, Silver Lake, Westport River, Taunton River and the North River. The annual bald eagle nesting survey is scheduled for Friday, April 6th, 2018 when MassWildlife staff and volunteers will observe all known eagle nests and try to document new nests and territories. Anyone with an eagle observation on or about April 6th, 2018 is asked to report it to the District or State Ornithologist Drew Vitz. Land Management/Stewardship – Staff completed mowing of fields and trails at the Myles Standish State Forest Cooperative WMA Pheasant and Quail Areas, as well as the majority of field mowing at the Erwin Wilder WMA. Fire break preparation and, as a result of recent storms, the cutting and removal of downed trees crossing roads and fire breaks is underway at several properties including Frances A Crane, Erwin Wilder, SE Pine Barrens and Camp Cachalot. Further, staff took a boat out to our Penikese Island Sanctuary to conduct fire break mowing and stage equipment and supplies for prescribed fires planned for late March or early April. Two projects are currently out to bid. 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, parking lots are in the process of being evaluated for maintenance and repair activities this spring/summer, although recent weather will likely delay that work a bit.

Outreach/Notable Meetings – District Supervisor attended the quarterly SE Ma. Bio-reserve Management Team meeting and items such as illegal trails, signage and planned activities in the Bio reserve were discussed. The District Supervisor has been participating in a number of R3 (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation) work groups within the agency as part of Ma. Wildlife's ongoing effort to create a formal R3 Plan designed to identify ways to improve participation in hunting and fishing. A subset of the Senior Staff met to discuss the 228 comments received in response to the proposed Leashed Dog regulations and related Public Hearing. Minor modifications were discussed relative to the definition of a leash and the removal of dog waste. The regulation, with minor amendments, was approved by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board at their March 14th, 2018 meeting. District Managers met with Chief of Realty Craig MacDonnell and Assistant Director of Operations Trina Moruzzi to discuss the ongoing implementation of the Board's Walking Trails Policy. The Camp Edwards Controlled Hunting Program 2018 dates have been finalized. The registration form can be found on our website at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/participate-in-the-camp-edwardscontrolled-hunting-program>. Alternatively, folks can preregister 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 28th, 2018, Spring Turkey Hunt: Monday May 7th, 2018 through Friday May 11th, 2018, Youth Deer Hunt: Saturday September 29th, 2018, Paraplegic Deer Hunt: Thursday November 1st through Saturday November 3rd, 2018, Archery Deer Scouting: Monday November 5th through Tuesday November 6th, 2018 *Scouting Hours 8am-12pm, Check in/out at Range Control Archery Deer Hunt: Thursday November 8th through Saturday November 10th, 2018, Military Deer Hunt: Friday November 30th through Saturday December 1st, 2018, Shotgun Deer Hunt: Monday December 3rd through Saturday December 8th, 2018 and Muzzleloader Deer Hunt: Friday December 14th through Saturday December 15th, 2018. The contractor will be starting restoration/construction of the roadway providing access to the existing parking area off Elm Street at some point within the next month or so in accordance with the plan approved by the Town of Halifax. Concerning Burrage Pond access the contractor will be providing Jason Zimmer with a minimum of 7 days advance notice of commencement of construction, at which point informational signage will be installed at the lot notifying people of the upcoming project and that there will be a temporarily closing the roadway and parking lot while under construction.

Communications: President Johnson informed us that a communication received by delegate Susan Fernandes , of Fin,Fur and Feather, pertaining to an update of the PCLS by-laws. A comprehensive discussion on this subject was entertained by attending delegates on the concerns of FF&F. It was the consensus of the delegates, by way of a motion that was seconded and passed, that President Johnson to attend a meeting with the FF&F executive board to address their concerns. President Johnson received a request from Rep. Dan Shores asking to be present at our annual banquet and to address those in attendance. It was the consensus of present delegates that Rep. Dan Shores receive an invitation to our annual banquet and to introduce himself in a timely fashion. President Johnson read a letter he wrote to David Pierce, Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, requesting more effort be put into resolving the obstacles to purchasing the property before a commercial opportunity closes this opportunity.

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

Legislative Report: Nothing reported.

Old Business: Concerning the public meeting on dog regulations, President Johnson informed us that regulations were adopted at the Board Meeting. The only change was adding a requirement that a leash be a physical leash. President Johnson also added a congratulations to Jason Zimmer for his role in this project! The League has received RSVP's from State Rep. Susan Gifford and her husband Mark, Jim Wallace, Executive Director of GOAL and his wife, State Rep. Keiko Orrall and her husband, MDF&W Director Jack Buckley, MDF&W Commissioner Ronald Amidon, Southeast District Manager Jason Zimmer and Worcester County has reserved an entire table (two of which are complimentary). Ross Kessler and John Boardman from Marine Fisheries will be buying tickets at the door. Table place savers have been printed. Prizes pledged from Outback Arms, M&M Sporting Goods, Carver Sportsmen's Club and Wankinquoah Rod & Gun Club. President Johnson asked Jim Smith, Ceder Gun Club delegate, to give an update of the raffle prizes. Anyone interested in helping at the banquet please let Joe Gilmartin, John Fabroski or Jim Smith know. President Johnson, President Emeritus Fabroski, Treasurer Dee Bonney and Al Bonney attended the Worcester County League Banquet Saturday March 24th, 2018 at the Wachusett Country Club. This event was worthwhile in continuing the strong relationship we have with the Worcester County League of Sportsmen.

New Business: The public hearing at the MDF&W Headquarters in Westboro, Ma. scheduled for March 7th, 2018 at 7 pm regarding the expansion of archery deer season in zones 10-14 has been postponed to April 10th, 2018 at 7 pm. We are being asked to bring 6 delegates to the meeting as a show of support. President Johnson requested volunteers. President Johnson sent the revised draft letter to Chairman Larsen as voted at our Feb 2018 meeting. The public hearing on Waterfowl regulations is scheduled for April 10th, 2018 at 3 pm at the MDF&W Headquarters in Westboro, Ma. President Johnson asked for a nominating committee for 2108/2019 officers and executive Board members as required in Article VII Section 1. Note The executive Board consists of the elected President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, immediate past President as well as (5) elected delegates. The nominating committee is to be formed at the April Meeting according to our bylaws and must report at the May meeting on 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. Elections are to be held at the June meeting and term starts at the September meeting Ref Article IX Section 6.

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. Please contact Paul Johnson at 508-241-2333. Please check our website for up coming Trout Unlimited events. For our annual banquet Bruce Westgate, of WR&GC, has donated a Lyman reloading instructional book and a framed picture

Adjournment: The meeting came to a close at 8:26 pm. Our next meeting will be at the Standish Sportsman Assoc., April 18th, 2018 located 1 Burr Ln. East Bridgewater, Ma. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm

PCLS Secretary

Mike Armburg