



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

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Hanson Rod & Gun Club

November 15th, 2017

At 7:00pm 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 November meeting and thanked the Hanson Rod & Gun Club for a wonderful meal. HR&GC President Justin Jerome spoke on behalf of the HR&GC welcoming all in attendance and thanked the PCLS for all they due for the sportsmen and hoped that everyone enjoyed their meal. He also thanked the kitchen crew, Walter, Barbara, Mike and Scott, for serving the meal. President Johnson also thanked the WR&GC kitchen crew for a wonderful meal and thanked HR&GC for all the work that they do in support of sportsmen and sportswomen.

Roll Call: There were 39 delegates representing 15 clubs and organizations in attendance along with 2 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 October meeting minutes was accepted as published by a motion that was seconded and passed. Secretary Armburg then confirmed a roll call purge of listed delegates from the previous meeting has been completed and posted.

Bills to be paid: There were no bills presented to be paid..

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmers began by informing those in attendance that there has been complaints about the quality of the Pheasants stocked by MDF&W. He informed us that the birds that are stocked come from two different vendors and that they are documenting the quality of birds and try to come up with a solution with contract regulations. The city of Fall River, Ma. has denied a request from the MDF&W to open some of the gates on the water shed area during shot gun season. Southeast division supervisor Mike Huguenin transferred into the assistant director of the MDF&W and Biologist Trina Moruzzi transferred into the assistant director of district operations. Vacant positions yet to be filled. Bids excepted today for mowing of 75 acres at Crane. A reminder that biologist will be present at checking stations during shot gun season and that the online system will be turned on Monday for the second week of shot gun season. Keep in mind that the MDF&W would rather you bring your harvest to any check in station so that biological data can be collected. The division is requesting from all harvest a sample of meat for genetic testing. It can be a one inch square sample. Another test by USDA is requesting deer feces's, (5or6). Last comment was that a lot of good size deer have been harvested this year, over two hundred pounds.

Communications: President Johnson wrote each member of the conference committee (Rep Todd Smola, Rep Jeffrey Sanchez, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Sen Vinny deMarcedo, Senator Karen Spilka) charged with approving the budget language and urged them strip the Linsky language from the budget because it presents unacceptable risks for sportsmen. We need to keep an eye on Gov. Baker as he has proven he cannot be trusted to protect our interests. He could and should have insisted on the Senate language. President Johnson sent written testimony to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security regarding over 50 pieces of legislation that are the subject of a hearing on November 16th, 2017 in Room A1 at 11 am. Testimony was prepared using GOALS Friday news listing as well as printed copies of each bill. President Johnson read his opening statement to all in attendance for he will not be able to attend this meeting. President Johnson contacted Ross Kessler to advise him that the deadline for applications for Wareham Community Preservation Projects is mid-December 2017. It's possible this money could augment Division of Marine Fisheries money.

MSC Report: No comments offered.

Seven Man Board Report: President Johnson highlighted a few points from the 7 Man Board meeting. In spite of advocacy to the contrary the Baker administration signed the Linsky language in the final version of the budget. The Director reported that the two regulations the agency has been waiting for, regulating dogs on WMAs and extending the archery deer hunting season, have been approved and will soon be scheduled for

public hearings. He stated that there is a Staff-Board Policy Roll out subcommittee meeting on November 7, and he intends to bring the regulations before it to discuss scheduling the hearings, and then will bring the decisions to the November Board meeting on November 9. Buckley pointed out that the Board's packets contained a letter, received via email the previous day, from the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, requesting a review of the turkey hunting seasons. He reported that he had already instructed staff to conduct a comprehensive turkey review earlier this month and that it will be brought to the Board when it is completed. The Director also reported that the early Bear season numbers were in, with 148 bears taken in September. This is down from 2016 at this point, when the harvest was 190 animals. Citing the unusually warm weather as a factor in the low harvest, Director Buckley stated that this is still not enough harvest to impact the expanding population. He pointed out that there was still the November season and the deer season as opportunities for bear hunters this year, and stated that the average harvest for those periods is 45 bears. And the Director reported on the preliminary results of 105-110 deer taken in the 2017 Youth Deer Hunt, stating that there were fewer young people participating this year, likely again because of the warm weather. In 2016, 138 deer were taken on the Youth day. Vice Chair Roche asked for a review of the pheasant hunting/stocking program. Director Buckley stated that he doesn't want to put too much on the new Assistant Director for Wildlife, and that staff will do the Turkey review first, then he would order a comprehensive look at the pheasant program. Director Buckley reported an hour-long conversation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regional Director of Refuges Scott Kahan, who stated that he wants a seamless process for resolving state-federal issues related to refuges. Mr. Kahan has stated that the USFWS is open to a youth deer day, but the Director was firm that we need to have consistent access for all, and for management of all relevant species and of habitat. He explained that there has been 17 years of process on the Massasoit National Wildlife Refuge, with still no access. The Secretary of the Interior has stated that public access is important on refuges, which are paid for by sportsmen, but the USFWS's official attitude is another story. Director Buckley stated that he will have Coordinator Langlois give a presentation on the Hunter Education Program, which is meeting the needs of constituents, and now needs to find ways make it easier to be licensed. The goal is to extend the program to even more people, beyond the traditional audience. Chair Larson stated that he wanted it known that the people doing Mass Wildlife's interviews are staff, and that they do a tremendous job, and that one indication to him of this is that positions are only filled when there is a good applicant pool; otherwise, position will be re posted, and the hiring process begins again. Director Buckley stated that a good example is the Fisheries section now, which is the best it has even been. He reported that some of those positions went out three times to get the right candidate. Secretary Booth then took the vote for Joseph Larson for the Chair and the vote was unanimous. The vote for Michael Roche for the Vice Chair was taken and was unanimous. For a review of the complete report go to our web site.

Legislative Report: Don't stop our efforts of supporting Sunday Hunting with your personal letters to committee members.

Old Business: President Johnson has been in contact with the other county leagues pushing for a meeting to build effective advocacy on sportsmens issues. A meeting is now scheduled for November 20th, 2017 to discuss among other things coordinating robo calls, email lists like mailchimp as well as more effective means to coordinate social media groups in order to build effective statewide political action on our issues. We need delegates to review the listing of social media sites and add to it so it will be available to discuss at the meeting of league presidents on November 20th, 2017. President Johnson provided a list of social media groups that we already have. He also feels that would also be an effective tool for other county leagues. President Johnson has enrolled in Dick's Sporting Goods Sponsor Port requesting donation of a game camera and rod and reel. Still waiting to receive the video footage for editing.

New Business: President Johnson informed us that he has updated the ROBO call list. Paul Williams has agreed to procure the firearms for our banquet. This will happen in early December 2017 due to the shop being moved. He will get the model info to Secretary Armburg as soon as he gets it. A motion was made, seconded and passed to allocate funds for our Grand Raffle of two rifles. A motion was also made, seconded and passed to allocate funds for gift certificates for the upcoming Standish Sportsmens Show.

Good of the Order: President Johnson informed us of a Sportsmens Show at Holbrook Sportsmens Club this coming weekend. He also commented on the weight lose that Justin Jerome has been able to achieve. President Johnson, along with all attending delegates, wished President Emeritus John Fabroski a very happy birthday.

Adjournment: The meeting came to a close at 8:07 pm. Our next meeting will be at the Holbrook Sportsman Club, December 20th, 2017. Comradery at 6:00 and agenda at 7:00 pm located at 150 Quincy St. Holbrook, Ma.

PCLS Secretary

Mike Armburg