



## **Plymouth County League of Sportsmen**

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**Samoset Rod & Gun Club**

**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 and for the passing of Bob Preston of the HR&GC.**

**Opening Statement:** President Paul Johnson welcomed all in attendance at the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen September meeting and thanked the Samoset Rod & Gun Club for a wonderful meal. He then informed us of the passing of Bob Preston, of Hanson Rod & Gun Club. A memorial in his honor will be held at the Hanson Club on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00pm thru 5:00pm. Vice President Mike Kominski spoke on behalf of the SR&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 for serving the meal. He then gave us a small verbal description of the club and their activities. President Johnson also thanked the SR&GC kitchen crew for a wonderful meal and thanked SR&GC for all the work that they do in support of sportsmen and sportswomen.

**Roll Call:** There were 40 delegates representing 15 clubs and organizations in attendance along with 4 guest.

**Secretary's Report:** The June meeting minutes was accepted as published by a motion that was seconded and passed. Secretary Armburg then held a roll call purge of listed delegates.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bonney gave a complete report on our finances. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report. She also handed out the invoices for the upcoming year dues. Please return your clubs dues at our monthly

meetings or by mail asap.

**Bills to be paid:** There were two bills to be paid for secretary expenses. A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay.

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report:** Jason Zimmers began by informing us that a lot of work has been accomplished this summer on management areas, habitat management and controlled burns. There are still some controlled burns to be conducted in the SE district especially at Crane. He is still waiting on hearings for the dog regulations and the request for the extension of the archery season. When the dates for those hearings are known he will notify the PCLS. The division is preparing for the fall Trout stocking that will begin the second week of October. Preparations for fall Pheasant and Quail stocking is also in progress. Concerning Burrage Pond, the RFR is close to going out for bid for the parking area and a water study was conducted on the property so that the division would know the the best ways to keep the most water on the property for waterfowl hunting and fishing. The division has this week and next week will be conducting its pit tagging of fish on the Salter Brook Trout streams. This tagging allows the division to monitor the movement of fish up and down the stream. The division is now looking into permitting some restoration projects. One in Freetown and one on the Taunton Water Shed area. Jason informed us that the Blue Hills Hunt has been approved by DCR and applications are now being accepted for this years hunt. Applications can be found on-line along with dates and regulations.

**Communications:** President Johnson reviewed our policies, procedures and decorum at our monthly meetings. DFW Commissioner George Peterson retired in July and was replaced by Worcester County League President and GOAL Director Ron Amidon. We could not have asked for a better replacement. On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 President Paul Johnson and President Emeritus Fabroski attended a meeting with DFW Commissioner Ron Amidon and other County league representatives at Division Headquarters in Westborough to discuss shared topics of interests. Much discussion on issues of coordination between the leagues and between the leagues and the DFW on those issues. League representatives expressed concern with a lack of effective leadership by the Mass Sportsmens Council. President Emeritus Fabroski added his comments at this meeting. Also Ernie Foster, of the Scituate Rod & Gun Club, was present at this meeting and added his comments. We received an email communication on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, from Don Kusser, in our attempt to rectify an open issue. President Johnson read the email and his response. After the e-mail we solicited a date to attend Braintree membership meeting and we received an invitation to attend the Braintree September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 membership meeting. President Johnson and President Emeritus Fabroski were present and were given an opportunity to address the membership. The Braintree membership was asked by President Fabroski for input on any issue of concern. No concerns were voiced. President Johnson explained that the PCLS represents the

interests of all sportsmen in the area. A conclusion to this matter will be heard at the Braintree membership meeting October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**MSC Report:** No comments offered.

**Seven Man Board Report:** No report given. Refer to the latest report on the PCLS web site.

**Legislative Report:** We received word on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 that the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture was going to hold a hearing on 22 bills pertaining to DFW. President Johnson reached out to Mass Bow Hunters and Mass trappers for input on drafting PCL testimony. Both organizations were helpful in preparing our written testimony. The PCLS appealed to Reedy's archery to use their contact list to generate participation. President Johnson then reached out to the Governors Office to determine their position on Sunday Hunting. He wasn't looking for a public position but some understanding of their position and direction as to how to proceed. President Johnson had a lot of trouble getting people in the Governors office to return calls. He reached out to a local legislator and GOP Committeeman to get the Governors office to respond. The public hearing on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Division of Fish and Wildlife was well attended by sportsmen. The PCLS was represented as was Carver, Standish and Fin Fur and Feather of Mattapoissett. A heartfelt thank you to those who attended your time and efforts are appreciated by all. Also attending Jim Wallace from GOAL, Mike Veloza from Barnstable County League of Sportsmen, Mass Trappers, Mass Bow Hunters, Peter Bernard from Mass Sportsmen's Council spoke on behalf of himself, and other individual hunters and trappers. Each Group that chose to speak got 3 minutes to make their case. The Chairman was fair to both sides and kept the meeting moving. President Johnson spoke on S.433 and submitted 4 pages of written testimony on all bills on behalf of our delegates. The opposition was sparsely represented and relatively muted for them. At one point HSUS seemed to agree they would be willing to negotiate the specifics of a Sunday Hunting compromise. Sportsmen were well spoken and well informed as well as polite. This was as good as it gets in a public hearing in Massachusetts. After the hearing President Johnson was contacted by a senior aide to the Governor who assured him that the Baker Administration was listening and wanted to reach out and establish better communication. A long discussion by delegates was entertained. A copy of President Johnson's testimony is posted on the PCLS web site. He also thanked all who attended from the PCLS.

**Old Business:** President Johnson reported that work has started on the Carver Cotton Mill Dam removal project. They have done some asbestos abatement work and have a media day planned for later this month date to be announced. All contracts have been signed and permits issued. President Emeritus Fabroski has daily observed the progress

and made comments. The 2018 banquet date is Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Monponsett Inn. Your concerns have been expressed to the management and they will address the problem. Need a Committee to plan banquet. The 0 Marion Road public access project ran into a complication. An underground tank was found on the property and the owner was unwilling to mitigate the cost of it's removal with the Division of Marine Fisheries. I spoke with Ross Kessler and he told me the project was likely dead. I approached the Buzzards Bay Coalition about the possibility of a joint fund raising project with local sportsmens groups to assist removal of the tank subject to sale to Marine Fisheries. This was being discussed when it was reported that construction work had allegedly been done on the site that was not properly permitted. I called Ross Kessler and he was going to be here tonight for an update but his plans got derailed. I am going to see if he can attend the October meeting. The PCL commercial video is still in the works we shot some raw video footage and met to story board the project in late August. The video was to shaky and it's in the process of being re-filmed. We need hi resolution images of club logos.

**New Business:** President Johnson attended the DCR/DFW public meeting held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 at Milton High School. The PCLS was the only Sportsmens group that attended and spoke on behalf of sportsmen. This meeting was attended by approximately 75 people most of whom were against the hunt. The input was virtually the same as last year and was largely emotionally based and highly unscientific. DFW and DCR staff were attacked as pro hunt. President Johnson used his remarks to support the staff that was present and spoke in favor of science based management and spoke about the cultural differences that drive much of the opposition. An audio recording of the remarks were provided to the PCLS by WATD and are available on our website. The deadline to apply for the 2017 hunt is Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/blue-hills-controlled-deer-hunt.html>. A committee was formed for banquets and events.

**Good of the Order:** Now is the time to submit letters of support for Sunday hunting. Please refer to previously sent e-mail or attached supplement for address. Please include bill number. Carver Youth Pheasant Hunt is October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Anyone with a bird dog who wants a tune up hunt is invited. Be at the Quail fields at 7:00 am or meet at the club at 6:30 am.

**Adjournment:** The meeting came to a close at 8:45 pm. Our next meeting will be at the Wankinquoah Rod & Gun Club, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Comradery at 6:00 and agenda at 7:00 pm located at 92 Pine St. Middleboro, Ma.

PCLS Secretary  
*Mike Armburg*