



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

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Samoset Rod and Gun Club

September 15, 2021

At 7:05 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 who have died or been injured while protecting our country.

Opening Statement: President Johnson welcomed all in attendance, thanked the kitchen crew for a wonderful meal and thanked the Samoset club for there support of the Sporting community. Club Delegate, Mike Keminsky, also welcomed all in attendance and thanked the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen for all the work we do representing the sporting community.

Roll Call: There were 34 Delegates and 0 Guests representing 15 clubs and organizations in attendance.

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

Bills to be paid: There were no bills presented for payment

Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the June, 2021 report as published.

A reminder that each club needs to fill out a Status report each year. Please see the Secretary at a Meeting to get a form. It is vital that we have correct names, phone numbers, and E-mail addresses for club Presidents, Secretaries, and Delegates. This information is used to contact all individuals whenever there is a need to get information

out between meetings. I also use the information to send out copies of our Meeting report each Month.

Communications: President Johnson Sent A letter opposing ATF 2021r-05.

President Johnson read a draft letter to be sent to DWF on proposed changes to Pheasant hunting regulations. After discussion, a Motion was made, seconded and passed to add to the letter asking to extend Pheasant hunting season to run until the end of the year. A motion was made, seconded and passed to send the letter with changes made.

Special Guest: There were no special guests present at the meeting

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Report: Ross Kessler was unable to attend the meeting. No report was submitted.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmer Attended the meeting and gave a complete report. Please read Jason's report attached to the end of this meeting minutes report.

Jason sent me an additional report concerning Hunting on Nantucket Island. In recent years there have been some poor hunting practices being utilized. Please read the 2nd attachment to this report and post a copy in your Club.

Seven Person Board Report: No report

Legislative Report: The Fy2022 passed and was signed. The budget included both amendments 296 and 328, which added to the DWF budget using monies from the general budget. These amendments include reimbursements for free and reduced cost license and also restores the Endangered Species funding rejected by the Senate. This will reduce the amount of funds that need to be raised through license and stamp fee increases.

Massachusetts Conservation Alliance: The MCA is working on a rapid response E-mail list. The list has been reviewed, and contact information for State Senators and Reps was added for those who have signed up. The list needs many more participants.

Anyone wishing to send a donation to the Lobbying effort can mail a check to Worcester County League of Sportsmen's Clubs, P.O Box 766, West Boylston, Ma. 01583. Write "MCA" on the memo line.

Old Business: The Audit Committee will provide a report at the October meeting.

New Business: The 2021/2022 Host Club schedule is the same as last year. The only Month not confirmed is December. President Johnson will finalize the schedule and provide information at the October meeting.

There are rumors that the Hunter Education system is going to be over hauled in the near future. A lengthy discussion was held on the problems and frustrations with the Hunter Education system.

Annual Banquet: Our annual banquet will be held on April 24, 2022 at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson, Mass. It appears the caterer we planed to use is unable to fulfill our needs. Vice President Smith is looking into other catering Businesses. If any one knows a caterer, please give information to Jim.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to keep the Grand Raffle prizes the same as what was voted on last year. 1st prize is a gift certificate to Bass Pro or Cabella's, 2nd and 3rd prizes are for a gift certificates to Hunter Trading Post and Outback Arms.

Good of the Order:

The fundraiser to support Mass Conservation Alliance Lobbying effort scheduled at Marlborough Sportsmen's club on September 19, 2021 has been canceled.

The Standish Sportsmen Show will return in 2022. the dates of show are February 5th and 6th at the Standish club 1 Burr Ln. East Bridgewater, Mass.

Trout Unlimited is hosting a Fundraiser on May 10, 2022. More details will be provided at the October meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting came to a close at 8:15 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled at Wankinquoah Rod and Gun Club, 92 Pine St. Middleboro, Ma. On October 20, 2021. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

PCLS Secretary

Ed Birch

Southeast District Report

September 2021

License Fee Increase Update - After several public comment sessions and extensive feedback from hunters and anglers, the modified license increase fees were officially approved by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board and the Executive Office of Administration and Finance. The new fee schedules, which will go into effect in 2022, can be found at

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/masswildlife-proposed-fee-list/download>. This represents the first fee increase in Massachusetts in more than 25 years. We fully recognize the important and leading role that hunters and anglers play in conservation in Massachusetts and we greatly appreciate the continued support you all have shown for MassWildlife programs!

Early Goose Season Underway - Early (resident) goose season began on September 1. This marks the first year that this season has opened on Labor Day. This change, approved by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board during the annual Migratory Bird Public Hearing, was intended to provide for additional hunting opportunity for Massachusetts goose hunters.

Pheasant Hunting Public Hearing - A public hearing will be held virtually via a Zoom video webinar at 9:30 a.m. on September 28 following the monthly business meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board. The proposed regulatory amendments relate to 321 CMR 3.02(6) and 3.03(2). The proposed regulations would establish a pheasant/quail permit, eliminate the seasonal bag limit for pheasant and quail, remove rooster-only restrictions, and eliminate the hunter registration process for pheasant hunting at Martin Burns WMA. The full hearing notice, including the text of the proposed regulations, is available on MassWildlife's Public Hearings page.

Please note: Due to filing requirements, the Fisheries and Wildlife Board must vote on the proposed regulatory amendments at the close of this hearing. Therefore, there will be no written comment period after this public hearing. To submit written comments prior to the hearing, please email susan.sacco@mass.gov to the attention of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board, or mail comments to Chairman, Fisheries and Wildlife Board, c/o Director of MassWildlife, Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Shotgun Deer Biological Checking – Mandatory physical checking of deer during the first week of the shotgun deer season will resume in 2021. This allows MassWildlife biologists to collect the necessary biologicval data from harvested deer at a subset of check stations across the State in order to be able to properly assess herd health and manage deer populations.

Surplus Antlerless Deer Permits – Sale of surplus antlerless deer permits by Wildlife Management Zone will be staggered over the following days in September:

- Zone 11: Tuesday, September 28 at 9 a.m.
- Zone 10: Wednesday, September 29 at 9 a.m.
- Zone 9, 13, and 14: Thursday, September 30 at 9 a.m.

Surplus permits are \$5 each and are first come, first served until sold out. You may purchase one Zone 11, one Zone 10, and one Zone 9 permit per day; up to four permits per day may be purchased for Zones 13 and 14.

| Zone | Surplus Permits |
|------|-----------------|
| 9 | 1,410 |
| 10 | 9,092 |
| 11 | 7,770 |
| 13 | 2,526 |
| 14 | 2,619 |

Fall Trout Stocking - Fall trout stocking is expected to be completed the first full week of October, however we may be able to run a few loads the week prior if water temperatures are acceptable. Trout stocking has been completed. Our fall trout allocation this year is approximately 11,200 12-14”+ rainbows.

Bear Season – The September segment of our annual bear hunting season began on September 7. As of September 15, a total of 84 bears (not counting a few traditional check stations) have been checked in, with 8 bears at or over 300 pounds so far.

Camp Edwards Deer Hunts – All hunts are on as scheduled with very minimal conflicts with military training during the youth and archery seasons. Hunt dates can be found on our website here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/participate-in-the-camp-edwards-controlledhunting-program>

NEW for 2021 – Coyote and fox harvests must be reported within 48 hours. It is unlawful for hunters to intentionally or knowingly leave a wounded or dead game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and use it. All harvested game must be retained until processed for food, pelt, feathers or taxidermy.

SEWD-Specific Notes:

- 🕒 Happy to see that Samoset’s pheasant are healthy after issued we have had the past few years.
- 🕒 Two Southeast District staff, Aaron best (Stewardship Biologist) and Connor Fleming (Fish and Wildlife Technician) went on deployment out west with the Massachusetts interagency wildfire crew and helped fight/contain wildfires in Montana and Idaho.
- 🕒 Staff have been working hard all summer installing and/or maintaining gates, maintaining access roads and improving or building new parking areas at several WMAs.
- 🕒 Staff are currently preparing for upcoming trout and pheasant/quail stocking. We are mowing stocking roads, setting up our quail holding pen at the District Office, mounting and prepping trout stocking tanks, etc.
- 🕒 Bird feeder update: The mystery illness that was documented killing many birds this past summer has yet to be fully understood, but experts believe it is once again safe to fill/use bird feeders as they do not believe it is contributing to the spread of the illness. In fact, the illness was never officially documented in Massachusetts.
- 🕒 There is some exciting news out of Fall River. MassWildlife has successfully negotiated with the

Fall River Water department to institute a pilot project to improve/increase hunter access into the Water Department lands that MassWildlife holds a conservation restriction over. Licensed hunters will be provided keys/access to three gates that will facilitate easier access to these lands and will make hunting safer and more accessible for older and/or mobility impaired hunters.

🕒 There was a small, but vocal group of residents that had contacted politicians and DCR to try and stop hunting on Gooseberry Island. MassWildlife met with the politicians and DCR and worked out a plan for better signage and education relative to hunting in the area and better enforcement of off-leash non-hunting dogs which was also identified as an issue.

Nantucket Deer Hunting Information

Folks: Please spread the important hunting information below throughout your membership to help maintain current deer hunting opportunities on Nantucket. As any of you that hunt Nantucket know, most of the open hunting land (approximately 95%) is owned/maintained by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. The NCF is very supportive of hunting and the need to properly manage deer populations, but they have seen an increase in illegal/unethical hunting activity (trespassing on their closed/posted properties), unnecessary and inappropriate dumping of trash (drink cans, food wrappers, bloody rubber gloves), irresponsible gutting of deer and leaving entrails right in parking areas, on trails or in other highly visible areas, and hunters driving vehicles off of maintained roads causing damage to sensitive habitats. In an effort to curb some of this behavior I promised I would send out this email and the information pasted below to any of my hunting contacts. Please pass this info along, do your part to self-police any other hunters you encounter on the island and help to keep this important island tradition, and essential wildlife management tool, alive and well on Nantucket. Thank you!

Jason E. Zimmer

District Supervisor

Southeast Wildlife District

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

195 Bournedale Road, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

p: (508) 759-3406 | f: (508) 759-0381

mass.gov/masswildlife | facebook.com/masswildlife

2021 Guidelines for Hunters on Nantucket Conservation Foundation Properties

Whether you are a resident or visitor, you will benefit from knowing more about the ownership and use of Nantucket's open lands, as well as becoming familiar with some of our local traditions.

Areas open to the public for hunting on the island include both publicly- and privately-owned land. While many public and private landowners make their properties available for responsible hunting, the majority of the land open to hunting is owned by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. This document contains information on the 2021 hunting guidelines of the Foundation, state hunting regulations, and the long-held customs of Nantucket hunters.

The Foundation is a privately-administered, non-profit conservation organization that was established in 1963 to preserve and protect places of natural importance on Nantucket. It presently owns and manages 9,010 acres of undeveloped land, much of which provide habitat for the white-tailed deer and other game species. These lands are private property and are open only to hunters who comply with guidelines established by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Deer hunting (archery, shotgun, and primitive firearms) and hunting of other game species during designated seasons is allowed on most Foundation properties. Exceptions include parcels that receive high levels of year-round pedestrian use. **Closed properties (see map to the right) are conspicuously posted** and include, among others, **The Sanford Farm** (NCF 146), **Ram Pasture and The Woods** (NCF 23, 24, and 186), the **Tupancy Links** on Cliff Road (NCF 59, 94, and 112), the **Masquetuck Reservation** in Quaise (NCF 169), **Trot's Hills** (NCF 66), property bordering

the **Quaise Road** (NCF 79 and 101), the **University of Massachusetts Nantucket Field Station** on Polpis Road (NCF 210), portions of NCF property in **Shawkemo** (NCF 130), portions the NCF property on or abutting **Milestone Cranberry Bog** (NCF 12 and 37), portions of **Little Neck** (NCF 6), and portions of **Squam Farm** (NCF 202). A “by written permission” limited shotgun deer hunt may be conducted again in 2021 in a section of Ram Pasture (NCF 23 and 24) during the second week of shotgun season (**December 6-11**) utilizing members of the Nantucket Hunting Association. **All other hunting on this property is prohibited.** The numbers shown here match those on the Foundation’s Properties Map, available at its office, by mail, or by [clicking here](#).

As the stewards of 30% of Nantucket’s land area, the Foundation’s Board is mindful of the need to manage the size of the Island’s deer herd, especially because of the connection between the number of deer and the high incidence of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. The Foundation’s deer hunting policies have been established with the understanding that deer hunting is necessary for the continued well-being of the deer herd, the health and safety of the people who live on or visit the island, and the quality of the natural habitat that we all share.

The following regulations and guidelines have been adopted to ensure that hunting by responsible sportsmen and sportswomen is a safe experience for all:

1. The 2021 Massachusetts deer hunting seasons are as follows: archery, October 4 – November 27; shotgun, November 29 – December 11; primitive firearms, December 13 – 31. [Click here](#) for designated hunting seasons for other game species. By law, hunting is only permitted between 1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset. **Hunting is prohibited on Sundays.**
2. While hunting, maintain a legal distance away from occupied buildings or those that may be in use (by law at least 500 feet) and paved roads and bicycle paths (by law at least 150 feet). Massachusetts prohibits loaded shotguns from being carried in a vehicle.
3. Respect the rights and wishes of all property owners – including areas that are posted to prohibit trespassing and/or hunting.
4. Keep vehicles on well-established roads. Don’t drive or park on Nantucket’s grasslands and heathlands; they are extremely fragile and easily damaged.
5. Don’t drink alcohol while engaged in any hunting-related activities.
6. Don’t litter. Carry your trash out. **Please dispose of all entrails and carcasses at the landfill.**
7. **PLEASE HUNT SAFELY!** Be alert and courteous to pedestrians, bicyclists, dog walkers and their pets, and other non-hunters who are also out to enjoy Nantucket’s open lands.

Helpful Tips and Information:

- The deer check station is traditionally open during shotgun season at the Nantucket Waste Water Management Facility at the end of South Shore Road (phone 508-325-5333). Hours are limited during archery and primitive firearm seasons; call ahead for further details.
- For information regarding hunting on properties owned by the Nantucket Land Bank Commission (a public agency) visit their office at 22 Broad Street or call 508-228-7240.