



## **Plymouth County League of Sportsmen**

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### **Plymouth Rod and Gun Club**

**December 21, 2022**

At 7:04 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 Plymouth club for the wonderful meal and their support of the Sporting community. Club President Melissa Compton 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 26 Delegates and 1 Guest representing 14 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.

A reminder that Club dues for the 2022/2023 session are now due. Any club that did not receive a dues notice please contact treasurer Bonney at 781-545-2753.

**Bills to be paid:** No new bills were presented for payment.

A check was sent to Gun Owners of America for our annual donation. This bill was approved at the October meeting.

Checks were given to Jim Smith for expenses associated with our annual Banquet. These expenses were approved at our September meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the November 2022 report as published.

**Communications:** Standish Delegate John Fabroski is home and feeling much better.

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

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

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report:** Jason attended the meeting and gave the following report:

MassWildlife had applied for an America the Beautiful grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Federation and we learned last month that we were awarded the grant! The grant, totaling 4.9 million, will provide funding for a number of important conservation projects in the southeast pine barrens ecosystem and involved many different partners including Ducks Unlimited, MassAudubon, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers, among others. The projects include the restoration of Century Bog at our Red Brook WMA, invasive species control and other habitat improvements at over 100 coastal plain ponds, mechanical treatments and prescribed fire on numerous pine barrens sites in southeastern MA, assisting cranberry growers with restoration projects and assisting the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe with scaling up their internal prescribed fire team.

- We also received a second, different grant from the National Fish and Wildlife federation of roughly \$800,000 for restoration projects in the Great Marsh in the Northeast District.
- The District has been working with the Town of Barnstable regarding the apparent posting of no hunting signs at Shallow Pond. Being a great pond, Towns cannot restrict hunting on them or pass any local bylaws or ordinances pertaining to hunting without gaining the formal approval of the Director of MassWildlife, which was not done in this case. I have a meeting scheduled for next week with the Barnstable DNR to discuss the situation and will report back more at next month's meeting.
- I am very pleased to announce that, after nearly 6 years of effort, we have successfully launched a venison donation program known as MassWildlife's Hunters Share the Harvest Program. We gained final approval for the program just days before the opening day of the shotgun season and officially announced it the weekend before the opener. For this first year, there is one single approved butcher (Haskins Custom Butchering in Hanover), and all donated deer are processed into burger and distributed to Veterans and their families in need through a partnership with the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation. There are plans in the works to expand to more locations for next season. Learn more about the program and how to donate here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlifes-hunters-share-the-harvest-program>
- The newest version of BioMap, a conservation planning tool for municipalities and non-governmental conservation organizations, was recently released. To learn more about BioMap see: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/biomap-the-future-of-conservation-in-massachusetts>
- I have been continuing to coordinate with the environmental cleanup program at Joint Base Cape Cod to facilitate their cleanup of a former grenade court (range) at the northern end of the Frances A. Crane WMA in Falmouth. The majority of the work has been completed and the final restoration of the site, including final grading and seeding with native grassland species will be completed this Spring.
- We had a very successful season of controlled deer hunting at Cam Edwards with a total of 71 deer being harvested between the youth (2), paraplegic (3), archery (8), military/first responders (2), shotgun (55) and primitive firearms (1) hunts. This compares to a total of 58 deer taken among all the seasons last year.

- We do not have any preliminary deer harvest numbers yet, as the season is still underway, but anecdotally we are expecting a possible new record harvest. All of the check stations my staff operated in the southeast district were significantly up from the past 5-10 years.
- Be advised that 20,000 of our licensed deer hunters should have already received an official survey aiming to collect data on deer hunter observations, their understanding of various deer diseases and biology, etc so that we can better target our deer hunters with educational materials.
- A serious issue associated with aggressive coyotes in Nahant recently made the news. The situation, which cannot be effectively handled by any other means due to the nature of the development of the Town, necessitated the involvement of the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services federal agents to lethally remove the aggressive individuals. This is something that is very, very rarely utilized by our agency as we always try to find solutions to these types of issues with legal hunting or licensed PAC agents, but that was not an option in this case.
- MassWildlife continues to work very closely with the vendor that runs our MassFishHunt online licensing system. We recognize that there have been a number of technical issues with the system and we are working with the vendor to get them handled in an efficient manner when they arise.
- Reminder that the pheasant season extension that was passed this year does not go into effect until the fall 2023 season. However, the small game (rabbit, squirrel) season simplifications and extensions go into effect in January.
- The Special Winter Gamebird Hunting program is coming up, which allows hunters to buy their own pheasant or quail and hunt them on select WMAs statewide between Jan 1 and March 31 (excluding Sundays). I have attached an application for this program to this email for any interested hunters.
- Prescribed fires were recently completed at the Frances A. Crane WMA last week and burns will hopefully be conducted at both the SE Pine Barrens WMA and Camp Cachalot WMA in the coming weeks.

**Seven Person Board Report:** No Report was given.

The Division of fisheries and Wildlife will be holding an event similar to the Big Moe, at the Marshfield Fair Grounds on September 16, 2023. more details will be announced soon

**Legislative Report:** No report

**Massachusetts Conservation Alliance:** President Johnson read a draft letter written on the Coyote situation in Nahant. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed to not send the letter or if sent not to include the PCLS.

**New Business:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to make a donation to the Hunters for the Hungry program.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to send a letter to Maura Heally congratulating her on being elected as the new Governor, and to ask for her to reappoint Ron Amidon Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife.

**Old Business:** The audit committee still has no report.

**Annual Banquet:** Our next annual Banquet is scheduled for April 22, 2023 at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson Mass. Grand Raffle prizes will be the same as last year. Dinner will be the same as last year's with the addition of cheese and crackers as an appetizer. This year each table will be numbered and called up to buffet line one at a time. This should help keep thing running smoothly. We did have to raise ticket prices this year. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed to set dinner tickets at \$45.00 each. Jim is going to need lots of help selling tickets and organizing the auction and raffle prizes. Please consider stepping up and helping Jim.

**Good of the Order:** Boxboro Sportsmen Show: January 27-29, 2023.

Big E Sportsmen Show in West Springfield, Mass: February 24-26, 2023.

Tried & True fishing expo at Whites of Westport: February 4, 9am-5pm. February 5, 9am-3pm.

Fly fishing show in Marlboro, Mass. January 20-22.

**Adjournment:** The meeting came to a close at 8:33 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled at Scituate Rod and Gun Club, 965 Chief Justice Cushing Highway ( Rt. 3A) Scituate, Mass. On January 18, 2022. Camaraderie at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

At the present time there is no state mandate requiring the wearing of masks or social distancing at indoor meetings or events. It is up to each individual to do whatever they are comfortable with. PCLS respectfully asks if any Delegate or guest is experiencing any symptoms of covid, that they please refrain from attending the meeting.

PCLS Secretary

*Ed Birch*

