

President: David Harbison
Vice President: Tom Mailloux
Treasurer: Darryl Huttunen
Secretary: Tom Walsh

**LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS
MEETING 19 FEBRUARY, 2004**

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
MARCH 19, 2004 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call:.....	Meeting Date	
In attendance representatives from:	January 15, ,2004	Club meeting night:
Andover Sportsmen's Club	1.....	Monthly, Second Thursday
Association of Ipswich Sportsmen.....	2.....	N/A
Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club	1.....	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Danvers Fish & Game Club	1.....	Monthly, Second Thursday
Essex County Sportsmen's Association	0.....	Monthly, First Wednesday
Georgetown Fish & Game Club.....	0	
Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club.....	3.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday
Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club	3.....	Monthly, First Monday
Haverhill Ridge Runners Fish & Game Club	0.....	
Ipswich Fish & Game Club.....	0.....	
Lawrence Rod & Gun Club	1.....	Monthly, First Monday
Lynn Fish & Game Protective Association.....	3.....	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Plum Island Surfcaster's Club.....	1.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday

9 of 13 Present: Quorum Established

To contact the League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs Phone or FAX (978)-465-5101, E-Mail pswalsh@comcast.net

League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs web sight at [http:// lecs.surfcaster.com](http://lecs.surfcaster.com)

A list of publications and web sights of interest to sportsmen:

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: www.masswildlife.org

G.O.A.L www.goal.org

Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council www.masportsmen.org

G.O.A.L "MESSAGE"

N.E.F. Publishing Corp. "THE FISHERMAN"

US Sportsmen's Alliance www.ussportsmen.org

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance 1-877-770-TRCA www.trca.org

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation www.masswildfed.org

US Sportsmen's Alliance www.ussportsmen.org

National Shooting Sports Foundation www.nssf.org

Meeting called to Order: 07:30 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Motion made, seconded and accepted as noted.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made, seconded and accepted as noted.

Communications & Bills: Mass Wildlife Federation Banquet info passed out. Will be on April 23 at the Maynard Rod & Gun Club. Call Paul Kress at 978-369-3118. Info on a special pheasant hunt was distributed at the meeting and by post to all meeting attendees. Mass Council Banquet will be on April 10 at Chester Post #279 in Auburn, Ma. Call 508 581 9517. Call your local State Rep in support of House Bill 4283, the beaver bill which would allow a licensed trapper to trap nuisance beaver on your property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Activity: Darryl had a conversation with Buckley, head of MCA regarding a suggestion made to Mass Wildlife regarding adding a page to the yearly abstracts indicating where the division funding was being spent. Tom W. sent a personal letter to the entire chain of command for Mass Wildlife regarding the nullification of effective black powder hunter ed. because of no life

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fire. It was stated that CT and possibly NY will not accept MA archery hunter ed. certification because of the lack of a live shoot with bow and arrow. Dave will look into the live fire, bow and arrow accreditation.

Mass Conservation Alliance: The general consensus at the League is that the League should continue to support the Alliance and that the Alliance was instrumental in achieving the goal of renewing funding for Mass Wildlife and that there are new goals. Mass Council will also continue to support the Alliance and there is a sense that the relationship between the Alliance, G.O.A.L. and the Council is positive and powerful and needs continued nurturing. Darryl was appointed again as League Representative.

Mass Wildlife Federation: The banquet is discussed under Bills & Communications. A motion was made, seconded discussed and passed to donate \$50.00 for the gift table at the banquet.

Mass Council: It was reported that the 5 member board was pleased with the F&W budget as proposed this year and that \$1.14 million has been put in for land purchase. Call your State Rep regarding house bill 202 to limit MASPA's authority for law enforcement in the area of domestic animals. Senate 1185 making Hunter Safety mandatory needs more scrutiny because of the above stated problems in the hunter ed. programs.

Topsfield fair: Joe reported that the fair manager is trying to start the fair a day earlier and open every day at noon and not 10:00 AM. The League will take no position on this issue.

Marine Fisheries: Chuck Casella discussed the reason for and limitations of the temporary closing of the region off Lynn, Marblehead in January for commercial fishing. He also explained the various classifications of commercial, six pack and party boat fishing and their respective limits. The League will take no position regarding restriction an area off shore for recreational fishing only until after letters sent from Andover, Lynn and perhaps other clubs have been answered and any motion to do so is further tabled until next month.

There will be hearings in March regarding reducing the commercial limits of striped bass. Call your Senator regarding Senate bill 2042, the Freedom to Fish Act. This bill will prevent the termination of recreational fishing in any state marine waters unless it can be proven that recreational fishing was the cause of a species depletion. The bill is being sponsored by the Recreational Fishing Alliance. There were a number of comments regarding the risk involved in attempting to close areas to commercial fishermen; these risks being that it opens the door to complete closure, i.e. could be used to oppose the rationale behind Senate bill 2042. There was an additional comment regarding striped bass kill by Massachusetts recreational fishermen; undersized bass are not returned to the sea in viable condition and many or most end up as mortally wounded by the process.

Old Business: A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to donate \$200.00 for the purpose of reimbursing the Council for a share of the Council funds used to help preserve the Mount Watatic Land Fund. For more information check out www.watatic.com.

Nominations for Sportsman of the Year, Lifetime Achievement and Legislator of the year were made and Representatives of Clubs were poled re. Sportsman of the Year.

COLLATION: March is Hamilton/Wenham unless H/W can convince Georgetown to show up, April is Haverhill Hound and May is Lawrence.