

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

**LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS
MEETING 20 MAY, 2004**

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
JUNE 17, 2004 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call:.....	Meeting Date	
In attendance representatives from:	May 20, 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	1.....	Monthly, First Wednesday
Georgetown Fish & Game Club.....	0	
Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club.....	3.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday
Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club	1.....	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.....	2.....	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Plum Island Surfcaster's Club.....	1.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday

10 of 13 Present: Quorum Established

The League welcomes Chuck Bell, guest speaker from Mass Wildlife

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

I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE JUNE MEETING; IF SOMEONE WOULD TAKE THE ROLL CALL AND RECORD THE EVENT I'LL WRITE UP THE MINUTES. TOM

JUNE IS GRADUATION MONTH; PLEASE INFORM YOUR CLUB MEMBERS THAT THE LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS SPONSORS AN ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR A WORTHY STUDENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION. AN APPLICATION FORM IS ON THE LEAGUE WEB SITE, [HTTP:// LECS.SURFCASTER.COM](http://lecs.surfcaster.com)

(Upper or lower case)

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

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

Chuck Bell was invited to talk:

Chuck expressed his thanks for the receipt of the award given to him in appreciation of his services to the League and to all Massachusetts sportsmen over the years. Chuck's work at Mass Wildlife, over and beyond the call of duty, has greatly benefited all the citizens of the Commonwealth and is specifically appreciated by the conservation and sporting communities.

Chuck's new position with Mass Wildlife will be to manage the Sunderland Fish Hatchery. This job will significantly reduce the length of time on the highway commuting. We, at the League, all wish Chuck the best on his new assignment and we look forward to bigger and better fish.

Chuck also thanked us, the sportsmen community, for the time and effort made to protect such entities as the Sunderland Hatchery and at the same time allowing for personnel hiring through the latest budget crunch.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the April meeting were not finished but will be available on the web site prior to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was passed out and read. Motion to accept report as read was made, seconded, discussed and passed.

Communications & Bills: Nothing important was received except normal monthly mail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Activity: There is a Dear Colleague letter being circulated in the Legislature to remedy the present legislation to allow a 90 day grace period due to delays in reissue of FID or LTC permits. In addition the letter will allow a more reasonable interpretation of the no prior legal infractions. There was a long discussion regarding beavers, flooding; deer, tics; and coyotes, eating your pets and the inability of present legislation to help control the situation.

Mass Conservation Alliance: I am placing here the various amendments to be pushed with your Senator. This was passed out at the meeting, but here is a record for your referral.

These are Senate budget amendments that need support. They deal with bringing the Division of State Parks and Recreation, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species programs up to workable funding levels. The "NHESP FEE WAIVER" amendment would prevent the state from charging fees to manage this Trust Fund. These fees can be as high as around 30%.

Floor Number: 113 Clerk Number: 651

DCR ADMIN ACCOUNT

Ms. Resor, Mr. Brewer, Ms. Creem, Mr. Creedon, Mr. Moore, Mr. Barrios, Mr. Morrissey, Ms. Wilkerson, Mr. O'Leary, Mr. Joyce, Ms. Walsh move to amend the bill (Senate No. 2400) in section 2, in line item 2800-0100, by striking out the figures, "\$3,773,905" and inserting in place thereof the figures:- "\$5,023,416."

Floor Number: 130 Clerk Number: 668

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION/DIVISION OF STATE PARKS & RECREATION

Ms. Resor, Mr. Brewer, Ms. Creem, Mr. Creedon, Mr. Moore, Mr. Nuciforo, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Morrissey, Mr. Barrios, Ms. Wilkerson, Mr. Hedlund, Mr. Joyce, Ms. Fargo, Mr. O'Leary, Ms. Walsh, Mr. Nuciforo move to amend the bill (S. 2004) in section 2, in line item 2810-0100, by striking out the figure, "17,699,682" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- "18,264,818".

Floor Number: 165 Clerk Number: 674

DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Ms. Resor, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Creedon, Mr. Lees, Mr. Moore, Mr. Nuciforo, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Tarr, Mr. Hedlund, Mr. O'Leary, Mr. Glodis, Ms. Chandler move to amend the bill (S. 2400) in section 2, in line item 2310-0200, by striking the figure "\$7,282,279", and inserting in place thereof the following:- "\$7,719,688".

Floor Number: 171 Clerk Number: 682

NHESP FEE WAIVER

Ms. Resor, Mr. Brewer, Mr. Lees, Ms. Creem, Mr. Creedon, Mr. Nuciforo, Mr. Tarr, Mr. Tisei, Mr. Knapik, Mr. Brown, Mr. Joyce and Mr. O'Leary move to amend the bill by inserting after section 17, the following new section:-

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

"SECTION 17A. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, amounts expended from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund, established by section 35D of chapter 10 of the General Laws, shall be exempt from indirect cost charges pursuant to chapter 29 of the General Laws."

Floor Number: 166 Clerk Number: 681

NATURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LINE ITEM

Ms. Resor , Mr. Brewer, Mr. Lees, Ms. Creem, Mr. Creedon, Mr. Nuciforo, Mr. Hedlund, Mr. Tisei, Mr. Tarr, Mr. Knapik, Mr. Brown, Mr. Joyce and Mr. O'Leary move to amend the bill (S. 2400) in section 2, by inserting after line item 2320-0200, the following:-

"2310-0301 For Administration of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.....\$250,000"

Mass Wildlife Federation: Junior dick stamp awards were made on April 21. Banquet was attended by Dave. Dave said that the food was great. This small organization deserved more of our help. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Woburn Sportsmen's Club.

Mass Council: The raffle was completed and the Muzzle Loader donated by the League was won by a person at Essex County Sportsmen's Assoc., Donald Fisch. The league should receive a welcome rebate from the Council for raffle tickets sold by League representatives. H-4283 is a repeal of certain trapping respective of Beaver. Call your State Rep. Actually the original referendum was illegal even though the Attorney General at the time would not remove it from the ballet. There were three initiatives on the referendum ballot. Perhaps the best move is to remove the Attorney General. There was much discussion at this rime regarding S-2282 and the Brewer-Moore amendment to this bill.

Note: On May 28 I received the following information from GOAL: The reform bill, which will now go to the House for a vote, would make the following reforms:

- *Change the size of an FID card and license to the more manageable size of a driver's license;*
- *Add a 90 day grace period after the renewal date for both licenses and cards;*
- *Require police to give a receipt for confiscated firearms;*
- *Extend the license and card terms to six years;*
- *Create a 7-person board to review the cases of persons denied licenses and cards due to old misdemeanor convictions.*

Despite what you may have heard, there are no changes in the law with regard to possession or sale of certain semi-automatic guns. The senate did vote to link our state law with the federal language more closely. However, they did not repeal our state's existing language which affects possession or sale of so-called "assault weapons." There is no net change in our state law. With a Class A or Class B license, Massachusetts residents may continue to buy and sell what are known as "pre-ban" guns.

There is more to do with respect to being sure that Massachusetts residents have all the protection guaranteed by Massachusetts constitution and the further actions will be discussed at future meetings. The point was made that certain Federal Laws and Commonwealth laws could couple to cause your arrest under Federal Law even if you are legal under MA law.

Topsfield Fair: Persons have been notified that they are on the list for Safety training. Raffle tickets will be passed out at the June meeting. I have asked Topsfield Fair for a date for the safety meeting.

Marine Fisheries: Gerry reported that there was a meeting in Gloucester where the recreational lobster control program discussed last month came under fire. Gerry reported that there was some record of letters and information not getting to Mr. Diodati; at least a petition and the letter from the Andover club had not reached him. The general opinion from the floor was that the commercial lobstermen are satisfied with the present regulation. He did mention that penalties for overages in the commercial fisheries sector are not large enough to inhibit the illegal activity.

Fresh Water Fisheries: Chuck reported that all stocking will be completed by May 16. The division expects that their new stocking program will be less intrusive and expects that there will be more and better fishing and that the program will be more cost effective. Regarding the upland youth hunt, a grant has been received from NSSF by the division to determine why the youth hunt has been declining overt the years. The results of this survey are being collated and a management plan will be presented to the seven member board in July. At that time a draft copy of the review will be made available. The objective will be to supply Leagues and/or clubs with kits containing information required in order to start set standards and curriculum for a better youth hunting program. There was a discussion regarding pheasant hunting on the cape, but much of it was missed because the recorder was d

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

own for a few minutes.

Keep your eyes open for a mushroom hunt sponsored by Mass Wildlife Federation.

Some upland game topic was discussed here:

(Could we get information back from the Division regarding the success of the self stocking pheasant hunt?)

There was some discussion regarding better placement of bird purchasing and the one day duration of the hunting permit. If there is a good demand we could maybe find a farmer or club who would wish to raise birds for local consumption.

Some discussion regarding the League Banquet occurred at this point and a motion was made, seconded and passed to make tickets next year priced at \$30.00 with no discount for couples. A table of eight may be purchased for \$200.00 and the money must be paid at least two weeks before the banquet date. Looking at March 12 or 19 of 2005. There was also a long discussion regarding payments to Hill Top. *NOTE: I've contacted Darryl and he has prepared a full listing of all amounts paid and received. This should answer all questions and will be passed out at the June meeting.*

An amount of the meeting after Chuck's presentation on Youth Hunts was missed because of recorder problems.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded and passed.

COLLATION: June is Lynn, in July and August the League meetings are adjourned, will start again on September 16 and the collation at that time will be Plum Island Surfcasters.

NOTE: NOT ON THE RECORDING BUT WHAT DID OCCUR WAS AN ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT; DAVE HARBISON

VICE PRESIDENT; TOM MAILLOUX

TREASURER; DARRYL HUTTUNEN

SECRETARY; NO PERSON ELECTED. TOM WALSH HAS DECLINED TO RERUN, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY MINUTES FOR A LIMITED TIME. SOMEONE NEEDS TO FILL THIS POSITION.