

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

**LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS
MEETING 20 February, 2003**

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
MARCH 20, 2003 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

| Roll Call:..... | Meeting Date | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| In attendance representatives from: | February 20, 2003 | Club meeting night: |
| Andover Sportsmen's Club | 0..... | Monthly, Second Thursday |
| Association of Ipswich Sportsmen..... | 2..... | N/A |
| Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club | 1..... | Monthly, Second Wednesday |
| Danvers fish & Game Club..... | 2..... | Monthly, Second Thursday |
| Essex County Sportsmen's Association | 0..... | Monthly, First Wednesday |
| Georgetown Fish & Game Club..... | 0 | |
| Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club..... | 1..... | 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..... | 5..... | Monthly, Second Wednesday |
| Plum Island Surfcaster's Club..... | 1..... | Monthly, Third Tuesday |

8 of 13 Present: Quorum Established

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

Meeting called to Order: 07:35 p.m.

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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

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of January, 2003 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was distributed to the body. Treasurer is still looking at better repositories for League funds. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded and approved.

Communications & Bills: No abnormal bills and only communications were from the US Sportsmen's Alliance thanking us for the contribution.

Inserted here is a letter to all Clubs through the League, stating the purpose of the League and why each Club and Club member should support the League.

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

Who represents **ALL** of your sporting interests? Where can an individual send ideas that affect hunting, trapping and fishing regulations? Who has been working for the Sportsmen for better than 65 years?

Essex County League of Sportsmen's Clubs, that's who! We work through the Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council to discuss many issues of concern to sportsmen around the Commonwealth. Unlike some Organizations whose main purpose is the protection of our gun rights, (I'm not knocking them, we would be in tough shape without them) the League and Council not only work with GOAL on legislative matters pertaining to firearms, we have a lobbyist who also works on those issues, but also many others, such as those pertaining to access to open lands and boat ramps, fishing, trapping, and hunting regulation changes, and many other things too numerous to list. Most of the work is done behind the scenes without much fanfare.

How much does all of this cost the Club members? The yearly cost to the member clubs is about to go up to a whopping \$185.00 per club, based on those figures it breaks down to one heck of a bargain for members of each club.

That is why we need your support. Our biggest fund raiser this year will be the League's banquet being held on March 29, 2003 at the Hilltop Steak House on RT#1 in Saugus at 6:00P .M. Tickets purchased before March 21 will be \$30.00ea or \$55.00/cple. After that date there will be a 5.00 surcharge.

Tickets can be purchased from Dave Harbison by sending a check payable to the Essex County League of Sportsmen to David Harbison 494 Merrimac St. Newburyport, Ma. 01950 and we'll hold your ticket at the door.

Thank You, Dave Harbison Pres. Essex Co. League

Mass Council:

Council needs nominations for Sportsman of the Year, Hall of Fame and Lillian Gribbons Award. Deal line on nominations is March 22. Franklin county is asking for public hearing on an extension in the bear season.

A discussion regarding the Governor's proposed budget: all sportsmen must contact their legislative representatives and the Governor's office regarding the raiding federally refundable monies. Much of the funding, specifically that of inland fisheries and game and hunter education is totally refunded by the federal government. In addition, if this Pitman-Robinson funding is raided, the state will loose PR distributions and will need to pay back funding raided if ever receiving PR reimbursement in the future. Raiding these PR refundable monies is not only devastating to the sportsman, but also devastating to the future of fisheries, wildlife, hunting and angling in the future. The only possible reason for budgeting refundable funds at zero is to improve a temporary cash flow problem, but the penalty would be, as mentioned above, severe. There is a second issued: funds raised through Wilderness stamps and other licensing activity by the state. Just for the record, \$1.2 million was raised by 2003 wilderness land stamp. Sportsmen pushed to add this stamp to all hunting licenses and now the pols are trying to steel it. By law this money is to be allocated only for purposes as presently defined. Remember however, that only state law, law that the state can readily change, protects these dedicated funds. *(Sec. note: It is probably wise, at this time, to not make many phone calls to legislators until some confusing issues work themselves out. Hjowever contact with legislators asking that the Division and positions of key people not be changed and that the dedicated funds not be raided could do no harm. In some private communications and from some literature produced by Mass Council it is apparent that both the Governor's staff and the legislatures don't really have a handle on what is occurring regarding the FY04 budget and reorganization..)* At the next meeting we should have a motion made to either back in principal the Worcester County League initiative to allow for private stocking of exotic birds fir one day private hunts. *The Mass Council voted to go on record as favoring in principal the concept, but will reserve until after MF&W has reviewed and amended the proposal before fully endorsing)*

Junior conservation camp will be from Aug 10-22. \$500.00 per camper. Full details at www.masswildlife.org

Council banquet is April 5 with deadline of March 22. Location is Tuttle Post in Auburn, price is \$25 per person and \$45 per couple.

At this point we made a list of all committees reporting to the League:

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation
Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council
Legislative/GOAL
Youth Pheasant/Duck Hunt
Topsfield Fair
Marine Fisheries

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

**Inland Fisheries/ Stocking
Sandy Point
Banquet
Water Fowl**

In addition, since the meeting
US Sportsmen's Alliance
and there should be
Inland fisheries
Nominating
Lottery

If any are out listed above please bring them to Tom Walsh's attention either at the meeting or at home (978) 462-4782.

Mass Wildlife Federation:

The Federation banquet will be on April 11. Details will be available on www.Masswildfed.org. Contact Dave Harbison for tickets.

Banquet Committee: Flyers and tickets have been distributed. George Peterson has confirmed that he will make the banquet.

Youth Waterfowl, Pheasant Hunt: Plover festival on May 18. There appears to be problems with youth waterfowl hunts and the process for obtaining FID cards for youth.

Marine Fisheries: There will be a striper meeting at a Holiday Inn on March 6. For recreational fishermen inshore cod minimum size has been raised from 21 to 23" with a daily limit of 10 cod from April to November and 5 cod from December to March.

Topsfield fair: There is a rumor from a local newspaper that there will be a tax or fee attached to Topsfield Fair tickets next year. The purpose being to offset Topsfield deficits.

Old Business: There is talk in western MA regarding a primitive season, perhaps flintlocks, long bows and recurves. Find out how your individual club feels in principal regarding this issue.

New Business: Motion made seconded and carried that the minutes be carried on the web sight, <http://lecs.surfcaster.com> putting essex county league in the search engine also works.

Good of the Order: Lynn Fish & Game Banquet \$15, March 15, pork, Turkey: game is Buffalo, pheasant bear, deer, quail at the K. of C. in Lynn. Reservations at (978) 921-5281.
Youth Archery is going well on Friday night.

As of the date of this meeting the following clubs had not paid their dues: Andover Sportsmen, Assoc of Ipswich Sportsmen, Cape ann Sportsmen and Essex County Sportsmen's Assoc.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed

COLLATION: ; By consensus the League decided to leave clubs that never show up from the collation list. Mar. Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun; Apr. Lawrence Rod & Gun; May Lynn Fish & Game Protective Assoc