

Monthly Meeting

Greetings to all! We left our Eboard meeting last night with the snow falling and giving us a blanket of white. It was actually quite pretty driving past Mason farm on my return to Holden. It brought back memories of Robert Frost's poem, *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*. Visibility wasn't great, but it's always better to enjoy rather than complain. I'll include the poem at the end of the newsletter under Good and Welfare. Enjoy!

Our meeting started as usual with Maryanne's Secretary's Report. Nothing remarkable to report except Chris Craigue's puppy, Isaac, harassed Maryanne throughout her report. She finished despite the distraction who quickly moved to other sources of entertainment. Isaac spent time with me, Pat Orrell, and finally Joe Afonso, among others. He was equally insistent with us in his demand for attention. Ah, puppies...

Cindy Smith was working so we skipped the Treasurer's Report. The checkbook was present though, and members owed money were reimbursed promptly by EJ who played treasurer for the night... maybe I should say, "Check writer." We don't want EJ to get a dose of self-importance.

2 stories are coming... This is a long edition of the newsletter, so we'll get them in another one. To everyone, please send me any outdoor stories that you may have. We'd love to hear about your latest exploits! I'll serve as editor and get the story into a presentable format, subject to your approval before publishing. Please email me, Chris Erali, at eralic23@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse – **Next Meeting: February 12, 2019**. Make it a point to attend if you can. From 6:00 – 6:45 pm for a cocktail and socializing – then we serve the best \$5 meal in town! Club business discussed with occasional guest speakers from 7:15 - 8:30ish. It is usually an early night unless someone gets long-winded...

General Announcement:

The February general meeting will be the second vote on a change to our bylaws. Please attend if you can, thanks.

Communications

We received the 8-Point Sportsmen's Club newsletter, one from the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine, and American Hunter from the NRA .

Speakers

Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a speaker at a future meeting.

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:

It was felt that this safety tip still applied so we are keeping it.

“Make sure the ice is safe, before venturing out.”

If you're not sure, please consult the Mass Fish and Wildlife website for updates.

I suggested we edit it slightly to:

“It's cold, the ice is safe right now.

Be at our Ice Fishing Outing or feel the wrath of John Meyer!”

Ice Fishing Derby

Once again it is scheduled for **Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2019!**

It starts bright and early! John will be there in his fur hat along with his usual cohorts to get everything going. No equipment necessary! Come and enjoy a day on the “hard water”! There will be plenty of food, hotdogs for all, coffee and hot chocolate, along with other sundries in the food family. Bring Mom, Dad, kids, grand-kids, grandparents, dogs, relatives, and neighbors! Everyone is welcome!

The forecast is for a beautiful winter day. Dress warm and don't worry, you'll be home in plenty of time for the kick-off. **Go Pats!**

New Business

Summer Function

The Summer Function date will be August 25, 2019.

Super Bowl Sunday

After ice fishing, we will be live streaming the Super Bowl game at the club. There will be a potluck tailgate/dinner/supper starting at 5:30 PM on Feb 3rd with the kickoff at 6:30 PM. Come down and watch the game have some great food, fellowship, and a drink. Bring your favorite dish! We'll be using our new 75" TV to watch the Patriots kick some butt in our **BLITZ FOR 6!**

Contact Ralph Cochran (508-769-2600) or Joe Afonso (617-939-1605) for additional details.

Chris Craigie reported on a phone call to the power company regarding the possibility of a gate being installed at the entrance to the power lines and our property. He had to navigate through several levels of computerized responses before finally getting to leave a message. Thanks for

your patience, Chris. The result is we did leave a message that we felt a gate was necessary. Our hope is they will want to protect their easement as much as we want to protect our property.

The Board discussed signage around our property and our desire to delineate our boundaries. I am putting this under new business only because John Meyer contacted the DCR and had some new news regarding what they could do for our club. John reported that the icons that can be seen on the DCR signs are very clear and effective. Several members on the board had some good ideas and it was decided to continue researching and once ready to make the purchase of the signs. There was input from numerous departments and a useful discussion to arrive at the decision to move forward with the project. The Board felt this is something we want to do correctly. We want them to last for years. 25 years would be great. Let's spend the money and get it done right.

Old and Unfinished:

Cindy researched getting us some tableware. The Board had questions to discuss and rather than take a vote and then have to rescind it later, the issue was tabled until a future meeting.

Conservation Camp

Applications are being accepted. Nimrod gives 2 scholarships of \$950 for this very worthwhile experience. **Application Deadline is February 22nd!**

Scholarship

Scholarships this year are in memory of past presidents. The criteria focus will be on leadership, along with conservation, environmental awareness, and the outdoors. The memorial honorees are Peter Brewer, Jim Gibbons and Vic Shuster.

Membership

We have 1 new member to bring before the membership this month. He is Eric Twickler from Paxton. To Eric, **please join us at our next general monthly meeting, Tuesday, February 12, 2019**, when we welcome you to our club.

Membership dues must be paid by February 28th!

Board of Trustees

No Report

Trap/Skeet

It is quiet and cold. Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday afternoon/night (afternoon until the daylight hours get longer). It is open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting.

Important Date: **May 5, 2019 Ham Shoot**

Kitchen

Greg McIntyre, where are you? The gas valve needs repairing or replacing. Thanks, Greg!

Bruce Ebbeson reports all equipment in our kitchen is working perfectly. Members are doing an excellent job keeping the kitchen clean. Many thanks to our members who use the kitchen AND for keeping it spotless.

Game Dinner

Our 2019 Game Dinner will be held on Saturday April 6, 2019. As usual, apps, chowder and chili at 5 PM and entrees at 6PM. Come hungry and bring zip locs for take home.

See Paul Frasier for tickets.

This is Bruce Ebbeson's last year as Head Cook. We need a replacement for 2020.

Please contact Paul Frasier to volunteer. He or she can work with Bruce at this year's dinner.

Bruce will insure that the turnover is an easy one and will continue working at future Game Dinners.

Rifle Range

We are still having a few problems with stupidity. Most people do, but please, to everyone, follow safety rules and only use paper targets. Remember to keep all shots into the berm. Think about what's behind your target, ALWAYS.

Ed Reitz gave a great presentation using his laptop and our new TV screen on outfitting the range with cameras. More news to come as he researches details and price. Nice presentation, Ed!

2019 Rifle and Pistol Matches

Based upon feedback from members, here are the proposed matches for 2019:

- **22 Rimfire Benchrest**- iron sights at 25 yards, optics at 50 yards. Target will be NRA A17 Smallbore.
- **Black powder Rifle and Slug Gun**- iron sights 50 yards, optics at 100 yards. Target to be determined but leaning to a fun "know your limits" or hunting oriented target. This will be timed in early fall to facilitate sighting in for our hunters.
- **Pistol** - any caliber, iron sights and optics/open classes. Target TBD, but I'd like to organize something fun given our paper target restriction.
- **Centerfire Benchrest**- hunter barrel, heavy barrel, and now adding precision pistol class. Rifles shoot for smallest 5-shot group at 100 yards, pistols at 50 yards. Anyone have a Thompson Contender, XP100, or long barrel scoped revolver?

Dates and details TBD, but the plan is to schedule these on Saturday mornings.

House

We have purchased some new higher quality mats. These should last longer than the previous ones. Also, we have some purchased new Simple Green concentrate. It is outstanding for any cleaning job.

Executive Board

This month's meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM. We aim for the newsletter to convey the highlights. E Board meetings are held at 7 PM the last Tuesday of the month. Members are welcome if you would like to come and observe our club's operation. Our membership can be very proud of the board and the time and effort that is made by everyone to keep our club running smoothly. Member concerns are always addressed. Many times, one board member will inform others that a single club member voiced a certain matter that he/she found troubling. Our club can rest assured that any points brought up by a member are ALWAYS brought to the attention of the entire board.

Grounds

Waste Management fixed the cover of our dumpster. It is now back on the hinges. Don't force the lid open or closed. It's wintertime and things, particularly steel and plastic move slowly in the cold.

Please remember that volunteers are needed to help with clean-up after a snowstorm. The walk-behind snow blower and the plowing still leave our grounds with plenty of shovel work. There are always stairs, doors and the like that need some light attention. Please no need to call or wait for a call, just show up the day after a storm, bring a shovel and pitch in!

Finance

The market fluctuates as we all know. Smart investors stay the course.

Bar

All is quiet. Please check that doors are closed on all appliances, ALWAYS. And then check again.

Birds

We are finished for the season. We put out over 1,000 birds this year.

Revenue

No report.

Archery

No report.

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso is still looking for wood for bird boxes and planters. Rough cut pine is preferred. Joe started signing up people for the banquet. Kudos to our NIMROD archery volunteers for their work. The League will be lobbying for several issues that will affect us. Sunday hunting and crossbows are just two of them. Mass Wildlife is looking to make improvements on their website. Deer harvest numbers are still being compiled. Planning continues for Kid's Day, Young

Guns, and a donation to the 5 Point Action Fund Silent Auction. Discussion ensued and the Board voted to donate something of \$150 value.

Land Use

Kevin has a source for mulch at no cost. We will use it in the low areas, the “mud hole,” on the skidder trail. The tractor will be used to spread it as needed. Good hit, Kevin.

Business Records:

Linda had a handout for all chair people. The guide should be used by committee chairs to get started in preserving documents relevant to your committee. There are a lot of great suggestions for anything that could help the next chair person. What is needed to carry out the previous projects and functions should be listed. Vendors you have used. NIMROD members who have participated or have expertise in a certain area. Costs to be considered both for budgets and unexpected expenses. Linda created a very useful document. Nice job and thanks!

Historical:

The process is on-going. The 100th Anniversary of the founding of our club is coming up. More information is forthcoming.

Photography

Check out our gallery and Facebook page. Next up is a photo presentation of committee work.

Grant Writer

Tina Gianos is the person to see if you have a source of funding. Even if you are not sure, please contact her so that she can research the entity. If a committee wants to have a program for kids or a community, she can look for grants in those areas too. Time can be a factor. She needs at least 3 months to complete the application process. Thanks!

Good and Welfare

Linda ran into Don French, Sr and said he looked well and was his usual self. Thumbs up to Don.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

BY ROBERT FROST

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near

Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" from *The Poetry of Robert Frost*, edited by Edward Connery Lathem. Copyright 1923, © 1969 by Henry Holt and Company, Inc., renewed 1951, by Robert Frost. Reprinted with the permission of Henry Holt and Company, LLC.

Source: *Collected Poems, Prose, & Plays* (Library of America, 1995)

Please if you have any news that you would like to have included in this section, good or bad, contact any member of the Executive Board, and we'll see that it is included.