

## EBoard Monthly Meeting, February 23, 2021

### Something Different this Month

It is the beginning of March and as is typical, a warmup is in the forecast! The change of seasons is upon us. We will start with a poem for this month's newsletter. It is over 40° and the snow is melting. As I write this I look out on the side of the road with good amount of dirt showing in the snow as the sun shines, I am reminded of Robert Frost's poem about dirty snow.

## *A Patch of Old Snow*

By Robert Frost 1916

**There's a patch of old snow in a corner  
That I should have guessed  
Was a blow-away paper the rain  
Had brought to rest.**

**It is speckled with grime as if  
Small print overspread it,  
The news of a day I've forgotten —  
If I ever read it.**

This Robert Frost poem is short, brief, and separated into 2 stanzas. The speaker of the poem looks and sees what he thinks is an old newspaper that the wind has blown into a corner. He quickly realizes that it is a "patch of old snow". The snow which had been part of winter's beauty is something he should have recognized. There is a little regret in not remembering the snow and its beautiful whiteness.

The second stanza he rationalizes his mistake by saying that the patch indeed does look like scattered newspaper, and he is not responsible for his mistake. He did not forget the snow's beauty because it does not look like snow anymore! The speaker's thoughts shift quickly to "The news of the day" that he of course has forgotten. And then ends with the notion that maybe he never read the newspaper so he may not have forgotten after all.

The poem is a noticeably short, vivid description. We of a certain age, can grasp the poet's comparison of a patch of dirty snow looking like an old newspaper quite easily. The poem was published in 1916. Do you think young people of today will understand Frost's metaphor? It seems newspapers will be not even be printed soon, never mind read!

**In addition, check out the link from Kevin Newell to a Maine hare hunting adventure under Good and Welfare.**

To everyone, please send me any outdoor stories that you may have. We would love to hear about your latest exploits! I will 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](mailto:eralic23@gmail.com)

Monthly Meetings are always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse. – The February general club meeting will happen on Tuesday February 9, 2021. I believe it will be via ZOOM, but you never know. Keep an

eye out for an email with more information and/or a link to join the meeting. It will probably come from Joe Afonso.

### **Secretary Report**

Maryanne was not in attendance so there was no report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Cindy had little to report other than the bill for our documents' safe has been paid.

### **Communication**

No report.

### **Speakers**

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

### **Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:**

#### **“Be Sure the Ice is Safe Before You Venture Out!”**

*The temperature is rising, and we are losing ice fast!*

### **Archery**

Targets have been ordered and as soon as they arrive we will put them to good use. The cost should not exceed \$3,000. Shoots are scheduled for April 18, 2021, and the IBO Shoot May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following dates are also included. They are July 11, 2021, November 14 and finally December 14. These last two shoots will be indoor shoots.

### **Bar**

Nothing new to report. Imagine that? I thought everyone was drinking more in the pandemic!

### **Birds**

We used up our allotment minimum of 200 birds for our special bird hunts. The total was 238 high flying pheasants. The hunts this season were a joy for all. There was a small shortfall of \$64 due to the kitchen and bar not being open for the special days.

We are now looking for a new Bird Chairperson. Kevin Chviruk has done his duty to God and country as well as NIMROD and would like a break. He has been our bird chair for around two decades! Kevin is willing to work with you until you learn the procedures and schedule. My guess is he will not be far away. He just needs a rest from the early morning stockings on Saturdays. Contact any member of the board if you are interested.

### **Board of Trustees**

Chris Craigie brought up the fact that EJ's seat on the Board is now open. Our president feels since we have yearly elections that we will operate without the extra trustee until the fall elections. The Eboard agreed and that is what we shall do. The need for a special election was bypassed.

### **Finances**

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

### **Game Dinner**

No report. Cancelled due to COVID.

### **Grant Writer**

No report.

## Grounds

No report.

One of our biggest events was held on the “hard water” of Long Pond in Rutland! **NIMROD’S 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ICE FISHING OUTING!** February 7<sup>th</sup>, Super Bowl Sunday was a day to remember. Around 50 members made appearances and a great time was had by all. It was the perfect time for a get-together to be outside in a group despite the pandemic. It was a memorial to EJ, Eric Johansen, and a day of smiles, hot dogs, laughter, fishing, and fond memories. Many thanks to our ice grillers, Clayton Johnson and Jim Asiante and the Coffee and Doughnut King, Ralph Cochran. Congratulations go to Bennett Johansen for catching the biggest fish! Here are a few pics of this year’s event.



## House

No report. Propane level is okay and will get us through spring.

## **Kitchen**

The kitchen remains closed as we are not compliant with COVID-19 restaurant regulations. We will do as much as possible outside within regulations.

## **Land Use**

We tried to get around a bit on the tractor, but it was a waste of time. The snow is too deep. A discussion ensued regarding planting some apple trees or such. **If any member has a contact for purchasing fruit trees, preferably at a discount, please let the Eboard know. Thanks!**

## **Membership**

We have 2 new inductions this month. They are Christopher Dik and Bryan Jackson, Jr.. To our 2 new inductees, please join us at our monthly club meeting on ZOOM on March 9<sup>th</sup> when we welcome you to our club.

## **Records**

Linda has been uploading some material and is anxiously waiting for the COVID vaccine so she can start cleaning the office.

Our documents safe has arrived and is already doing its job! John Meyer feels much calmer now with a secure location for the untold story of our club's history.

## **Rentals**

We are looking forward to Saturday April 17, 2021 for *Goal's Women on Target*.

**Kevin Newell is looking for ammunition donations for *Women on Target***

**Celebration of Life of Eric Johansen, aka, "EJ", is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Rifle Range**

We are waiting for a break in the weather to resume renovations on the range.

**Remember, WHATEVER YOU CARRY IN,  
BRING IT OUT WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE, *Thanks!***

## **Standing Committees**

No report.

## **Scholarship**

We are accepting applications both online and through the mail. There will be 2 scholarships for Conservation plus 1 for Leadership.

*Answer to a Question: Yes, you can re-apply for a scholarship.*

## **Conservation Camp**

For those of you who are new members, NIMROD awards scholarships to the Conservation Camp. Al Afonso is the man to contact for more information. There is much competition for these spots, so do not hesitate to show initiative and act. The deadline is coming up in March or April.

## **Trap/Skeet**

Trap and Skeet is fine, but it is far from crowded. Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday evening. It is open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting. COVID regulations apply.

## **Worcester County League of Sportsmen**

We are receiving numerous comments at meetings. It looks like Mass Wildlife is going to raise its fees. It has been 25 years since license fees went up, so the idea is not surprising. We are trying to leverage the increase with some changes in any or all of the following: crossbow regulations, Sunday hunting, archery setback reduced to 250 feet, and mandatory free license for individuals over 70 and in the 14-17 years old range.

### **Old and Unfinished Business**

There was some discussion of transitioning in April to a live meeting again. We will have to see how the vaccine distribution plays out. A hybrid version with some people present and ZOOM being made available is a possibility. More news to come.

### **New Business**

There has been a wiring snafu for our new gate. It probably is already resolved. In making the transition to our new gate we will not remove the old one.

Cindy will clean the men's bathroom???!!!

### **Executive Board**

This month's meeting adjourned at 8:53 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 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.

### **Good and Welfare**

No news is good news.

Kevin Newell sends a link to a story in the *Bangor Daily News* of a group of young hunters hare hunting in Maine.

<https://bangordailynews.com/2021/02/11/outdoors/trio-of-women-enjoys-a-productive-snowshoe-hare-hunt/>

*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 will see that it is included.*