

This is the UNOFFICIAL, uncensored, newsletter of the Massasoit Gun Club. I am writing this to inform the membership of things going on at Massasoit of which they are probably not aware. I will never report anything in these newsletters that I have not verified personally with at least two independent sources.

Greetings good members of Massasoit and Happy New Year to everyone.

I have had an overwhelmingly positive response to my first edition.

There has been so much information coming in I am truly overwhelmed. Even I didn't know the extent of all the issues we face, all due to gross mismanagement. Sorry but there is no other way to say it. I have had to pick only a few issues.

A disturbing situation has come to my attention.

A well respected member of the club has been "shown the door" Our Pistol Team Captain and Massasoit Range Officer, Peter Sharkey, has been removed from the club and banned from the property, at least temporarily. He has told me, via email, he has been given no explanation for this action and I have independently verified that. My sources say he has refused to meet with the Executive Committee, Peter tells me has not refused to meet with them but due to business and family commitments, he was not able meet with the Committee until the second week of January. He received 2 registered return receipt letters, the first informing him of a special meeting of the EC, the second banning him from the property and requesting all keys and key cards be returned. The standard method of informing a member of a rules violation is to send an email requesting the members attendance at the next Executive Committee Meeting and informing the member of the reason for the meeting. He assures me repeated requests to the EC for explanation have been ignored (I was able to confirm that also).

Peter has contributed a lot to OUR club. He was the main catalyst for converting the heating systems to gas and upgrading all the furnaces, saving the club many thousands of dollars over the last several years. He designed the sound proof wall system we have between the shooting ranges and ready rooms, redesigned and rebuilt the target carrier system on the Baldani (new) Range and has been maintaining those carriers along with several members of the pistol team, all volunteers who have given freely of their time. (Perhaps his removal explains why so many ports are not operating at the moment). Peter is an NRA Instructor and has qualified many members for their carry permits (myself included). I know he has brought in many new members and is at the club every new member night representing the Pistol Team and offering free instruction to any new member, not just those participating on the Pistol Team.

I have heard a couple of rumors regarding why he has been removed. Both are absurd reasons for expelling a member. I was unable to verify either with anyone directly familiar with the situation.

No one questions the Executive Committees authority to call a member in to discuss range or rules violation, but this member has not been treated with the same due process and respect afforded other members. Why?

On to other matters.

The Massasoit web site has been down for over a month. Google searches point to an old website from 2016. We have been told the problem is an IP address issue then a hardware/software conflict. Neither of these things explain why the newer site has vanished. I'm not saying those things don't happen, they just don't take more than a couple of days to fix. Worst case scenario your host goes out of business, you set up a new web site and point the domain to that. It takes a maximum of two to three days for every machine in the world to find the new site. The reasons we have been given are clearly not true so now our imaginations run wild as to what could be the real reason. Has the site been hacked and is being held for ransom? This does actually happen. Is the hosting company or developer owed large sums of money? Why would the Executive Committee lie to us about this? The only thing I am certain of is the reasons they have given us are NOT true. You can verify this by asking any computer professional.

It has also been brought to my attention the club does not have liability insurance for its officers and directors. For those unfamiliar with Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance it protects the personal assets of corporate directors and officers in the event they are personally sued for actual or alleged wrongful acts in managing a company. Currently the club's assets would be used to indemnify officers in the event of a personal lawsuit against any individual member of the board or range officer. Over the summer a member researched this matter and found

insurance for under \$1000 per year which the club has yet to purchase. This lack of coverage unnecessarily puts the club's assets in jeopardy. Why have we not purchased this insurance?

New Building:

At the December Monthly meeting we were told "the permit is currently in zoning". A question from a member: "the permit application website still says stopped, how do know it's in zoning"? answer: "it's in zoning". Follow up: "if I call the city tomorrow and ask if it's in zoning what will they tell me?" answer: "don't do that". Later that week I called the city and was told when an application says stopped the city is taking no action at all and is awaiting additional information from the applicant. The Vice President said everything was going along smoothly with the August 28<sup>th</sup> permit application until a member called the building inspector and "stirred up the pot". This was news to the city. They don't stop an application or construction because a citizen calls and asks the current status of a project. Banks frequently do this during the construction phase of a project they are financing. According to city officials the August 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 permit application was stopped because the club has yet to comply with the requirements of the February 15, 2019 letter posted on the application website (see below). Does the EC really believe the city forgot all about the February 15<sup>th</sup> letter? What was submitted in The August 28<sup>th</sup> permit application was so lacking in proper documentation that it was an insult to the professionals in the building office.

I quote a favorite Russian saying of President Regan, "trust but verify" (Доверяй, но проверяй). All of what I've told you can be verified by calling the East Providence building inspectors office. It's all public information. The real reason for the resolution to expel any member who talks to the building inspector is the Executive Committee is afraid of what THEY will tell YOU, not what you may tell them. Read the February 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 letter. Select "Massasoit Gun Club Mtg Minute.doc" on this link: <https://eastprovidenceri.viewpointcloud.com/records/9925>. There are some very serious issues the city brings up which the club has not addressed.

This project has obviously been badly managed, has had no oversight, is seriously over budget and years behind schedule. And NOT A SINGLE member of the Executive Committee speaks to even one of those points. This my friends is consistent with a cover up.

Please attend the monthly meeting at 7pm Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> and demand, from those whom we have elected to run our club, truthful answers about ALL these issues. We cannot continue to blindly accept the same lies month after month.

As the late-night commercials say, "but wait there's more".

In this case A lot more to come in future editions.

You may unsubscribe by return email

Jack Falcone