

Hello: 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.

Since I do not have access to the official Massasoit membership list I have purchased a publicly available list of gun club members. An exhausting attempt has been made to identify and send this only to Massasoit members but some emails will certainly find their way to members of other clubs. If you are not a member of Massasoit then please accept my apologies and simply send a reply back with "remove" or "unsubscribe" or "get me the Hell off your list" in the subject line and you will not hear from me again. It won't take weeks to remove you from the list it will be done immediately.

I have been a member of Massasoit for a long, long time and it has been a great club with many wonderful members. I have many dozens of close friends that I've met through Massasoit.

Like most clubs Massasoit has never been a bastion of parliamentary procedure but the annual meeting in October played exceptionally fast and loose with the rules of order even by our generally relaxed standards.

90% of this newsletter is about the new rifle range building project.

Some notable highlights of the 2019 annual meeting

1. There was no treasurers report, no dues were set for the coming year and no opportunity to ask questions of the treasurer. The treasurers report is usually is a major part of any annual meeting. There were many members present that do not regularly attend monthly meetings and given the new building finances it would have been an interesting report.
2. A rule was proposed to expel a member for speaking to the East Providence Building Inspector. This is a thoroughly remarkable proposal in that it appears to be a public admission of a serious problem with the new building. The president went on at length and quite passionately about how this individual, by speaking to the East Providence Building Inspector, has prevented the club from getting a new building permit. He did not go into specifics about what information was so damaging that the city would refuse to issue a permit. Think about that for a second. Is the club covering up a hidden defect in the construction that would not be obvious to a professional building inspector? The President's implication was that revealing this problem has prevented us from obtaining a new permit. The first thing I did the next day was to visit some close friends in City Hall to find out exactly why the city hasn't issued a permit. These are the results of my investigation.

1 There isn't any damaging information.

2 The city has not been made aware of any hidden defects.

3 The club isn't covering anything up.

4 By law nothing anyone has said, will say or could say can prevent the city from issuing a permit IF all the conditions for a valid permit are met. (see details below).

So back to our proposal...The President finally ended discussion and called for a vote. When only a few hands went up (and it was obvious the measure wasn't going to pass) he then continued to "sell" the proposal (this is an outrageous violation of rules of order). This happened a second time (again not enough hands) and the president, again, continued to sell the proposal after which a couple of amendments were proposed; one qualifying the circumstances under which the member could be expelled the other requiring the existing rules be followed. I see why this last amendment was necessary as the president ignored most of the rules of order all evening. The most disturbing part is the motion eventually PASSED!

3. The election chairman allowed a question to be asked of the member opposing the president but then did not solicit questions for the other candidates. Totally improper procedure. Oddly no protest was made by the other candidates or the Executive Committee.

Moving on from the Annual meeting we take up the matter of the new building.

When this building was proposed in 2016 we were told we needed \$250,000 to put up the shell, a perfectly reasonable number which was overwhelming approved (I voted for it myself).

The building was constructed during most of 2017.

In February of 2018 the City of East Providence revoked the Building permit and placed a "Stop Work Order" on the building. In a letter to the club dated February 15, 2019, which the city has published on the building permit application website, the reasons stated by the city for originally stopping the project were as follows; the structure was erected without the required inspections as work progressed and the building constructed deviated from the plans on file. A copy of that letter appears in the "files" tab of the online building permit application. To see the current status of the building permit applied for August 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 along with all supporting documents go to <https://eastprovidenceri.viewpointcloud.com/search>

Enter our address in the search box: 21 Abraham Rd

At the annual meeting the president told us (repeatedly) we had secured a new building permit, it just had to be signed by someone who was on vacation for two weeks. This has turned out to be totally false. One month later, at the November monthly meeting, the president was asked if the newly obtained building permit was posted. He told us the current contractor, Frank DiMascio, had it in his possession. A question was then asked, "why does the East Providence building permit site show the application as stopped if we have an active permit?" The president said he couldn't explain that. Once again, the following day I made some inquiries. Not only had the city NOT issued a new permit but they stopped the current permit application some weeks before for lack of documentation. The SAME documentation that was asked for in the February 2019 letter.

The current (stopped) building permit application estimates an ADDITIONAL \$107,000 to complete the building. This Brings the total cost to \$540,000; more than double the original estimate. That total is for an occupiable building not the finished rifle range which would still need backstops, ceiling mounted diverter plates, ventilation system, sound control, target systems, shooting ports and lighting.

The roof of the new building is badly leaking. A member asked about this at the November meeting and we were told there is a temporary covering on the roof that is performing flawlessly (it most definitely is not).

I guess some of us assumed we had a firm bid from a legitimate contractor for the original building estimate.

At the September 2019 monthly meeting the treasurer supplied an accounting of expenses to date for the new building. The total spent, as of then, was \$433,000. (\$183,000 over budget).

The club has an outstanding construction loan for \$250,000 of which we still have \$15,000 to draw (or so we are told) and has spent an additional \$198,000 of club money, some from a building fund and some from the general revenues.

We are approaching half a million dollars for a building we cannot use. Construction has been STOPPED for almost 2 years. When are we going to get serious about this?

We should all be at the January meeting asking WHO the General Contractor, architect and/or project manager was on this project and WHY the Executive Committee has not held them accountable for putting up a building in violation of state building codes.

Again I apologize to members of other clubs if you have found yourselves on this list.

As Paul Harvey used to say "and now you know....the **rest** of the story....good day"

Yours Truly

Jack Falcone