

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### JUNE 14, 2017 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Commissioners Present: T. Tichy, R. Phillipson, T. Baldwin, J. Ryan, V. Greco T. Hubert, D. Patch, F. Clews, B. Carr and W. Morse.

Commissioners absent/excused: J. McGonagle  
Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Tichy called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., and asked the audience to join in the pledge of allegiance. He informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the chairman, the public may speak on any item on the agenda. The Chair reserves the right to limit comment to the extent necessary for the orderly conduct of the meeting.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.) Commissioner Greco moved to approve the May 10, 2017 Commission Minutes as written, and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 2.) Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and were noticed as consent agenda items to expedite action on routine matters, which may not require public discussion. The Commission voted to approve these matters as presented. Commission members may remove certain items if further public input or discussion is deemed necessary.

Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the consent agenda items 2a – 2f as presented below and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

- 2a.) Commission accepted the donation of \$50.00 in memory of Charlie Dwinal, from Michael & Janet Brough, Laconia, NH, to be utilized by the “Let’s Go Fishing” program.
- 2b.) Commission accepted the donation of \$1.00 from Randy LaFlamme, Boston Bass Anglers, who’s fishing tournament check was made out for \$1.00 more than needed and requested to donate the remainder to the department.
- 2c.) Commission accepted the donation of 61 Kapok fire starters, valued at \$792.39, from Martin Schunk, Enfield, NH, to be utilized by the Department’s Search & Rescue Team.
- 2d.) Commission accepted the donation of \$500.00 from David Bumgardner, Peterborough, NH, for assistance he received on the Blue Diamond Trail after becoming disoriented.
- 2e.) Commission accepted the donation of \$500.00 from the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1, Acton, MA, in memory of James Norton, who perished while hiking in Bean’s Purchase on November 13, 2016, to be utilized by the Search & Rescue Team.

2f.) Commission accepted the donation of \$271.00 from William Mauer, Eagle Scout, who started raising funds in 2014 to install a granite bench and gravel path leading to the bench along the bank of the Winnicut River, at the former dam site. When he completed the Eagle Scout Project in May of 2016, he had remaining funds from his donations and wanted to donate the remainder to the Fish & Game Department.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, reviewed the monthly financial statement dated May 31, 2017, with the Commission.
- 2.) Jason Smith, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, reported that due to increasing popularity in black bass fishing, specifically fishing tournaments, fisheries staff feel it is prudent to review the bass tournament permit issuance process. He reported that the current system was enacted when the department was issuing far fewer tournament permits. He stated, "The process has served us well, however, we feel that some adjustments may be helpful to serve our constituents more effectively and efficiently."

Chairman Tichy inquired as to whether Jason wanted to bring this before the Policy Committee for review.

Jason responded that he didn't feel that was necessary, however, stated that he would keep the Commission informed of the review process as they proceed.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioners McGonagle & Clews. Commissioner McGonagle was absent, thus, Commissioner Clews reported that the committee did not meet.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Hubert, Greco, Patch, and Baldwin. Commissioner Morse reported that the committee did not meet.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Ryan reported that the committee discussed the Warner River.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Clews reported that the committee was working on planning the annual lake tour.

**HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Patch, Chair; Commissioner Carr. Commissioner Patch reported that the committee did not meet.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Committee is sunset at this point.

**WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION:** Commissioner Greco had nothing to report.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Commissioners Hubert, Chair; Commissioners Baldwin, Phillipson and McGonagle. Commissioner Hubert reported that there was no meeting, however, encouraged everyone to submit their nominations for the 2017 Commission Awards of Excellence, need to be postmarked by December 31, 2017.

**NEW BUSINESS:** N/A

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Tichy stated, “The Commission usually holds the election of officers in June, however, due to turmoil over re-appointments for numerous Commissioners, we need to decide how to proceed.”

Commissioner Phillipson moved to table the election of officers until the August 9, 2017 Commission Meeting, or later, and Commissioner Greco seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Greco moved to remove the attorney/client privileged communication dated June 5, 2017 & make it a public document, Commissioner Carr seconded. The motion carried with 8 in favor, 1 opposed (W. Morse), and 1 abstention (D. Patch). (See attached)

Commissioner Baldwin reported that he had reached out and communicated with a family member of an individual who had perished in December of 2016, while hiking in the White Mountains. The family member expressed their gratefulness for the efforts of the Department’s Search & Rescue Team and also expressed a desire to thank them in person someday.

Commissioner Phillipson reported that he, along with Commissioners Tichy & McGonagle, recently installed piers for the archery pavilion at Barry Conservation Camp. He thanked all involved for their efforts.

Commissioner Greco moved to cancel the July 12, 2017 Commission Meeting and Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Director Normandeau reported that there has been no update on the budget. He reported that there could be a “continuing resolution” to operate under.

Director Normandeau reported that Representative Gene Chandler has been assisting with the battle for the Sunapee boat access project.

He further reported that Secretary of the Interior, Zinke, recently held a “round table” discussion at Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett, NH, to promote the Wildlife Restoration Act, also known as Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, and the Sport Fish Restoration Act, also known as the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950.

In closing, he reported that Nicola Whitley was selected to fill the Public Affairs Division Chief position. He reported that she would be starting on June 23, 2017 and comes to F&G from the Department of Health & Human Services. “We are anxious to get her onboard!”

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER BALDWIN:** Commissioner Baldwin had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER CARR:** Commissioner Carr had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER GRECO:** Commissioner Greco had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Commissioner Phillipson had nothing to report.

**COMMISSIONER MORSE:** Commissioner Morse had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER RYAN:** Commissioner Ryan had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER PATCH:** Commissioner Patch had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER MCGONAGLE:** Commissioner McGonagle was absent.

**COMMISSIONER CLEWS:** Commissioner Clews had nothing to report.

**COMMISSIONER HUBERT:** Commissioner Hubert had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER TICHY:** Commissioner Tichy had nothing to report at this time.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Doug Whitefield, F&G Steward, reminded everyone that he sends mailings to all the libraries informing them of his schedule of upcoming talks with dates, times & locations. He reported that to date the bear & bobcat venues have been a great success.

Rose, audience member, spoke to the recent bear issue in Hanover, NH. She inquired as to whether there was any talk or means to hold those people accountable for not taking in their bird feeders and for being irresponsible?

Director Normandeau responded that in addition to encouraging towns to use bear proof dumpsters, he encourages towns to have ordinances pertaining to this, which some towns have done and it's made a significant difference.

At this time, 2:58 p.m., Commissioner Hubert moved to adjourn and Commissioner Greco seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Tichy, Chairman