

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

MARCH 13, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commissioners Present: R. Phillipson, T. Baldwin, P. McInnis, C. Hodgdon, D. Patch, R. Green, B. Carr & E. Stohl.

Commissioners absent/excused: B. Temple & C. Luppi

Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Phillipson 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.

Chairman Phillipson called for a moment of silence honoring the passing of former Wildlife Biologist, John Lanier.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Baldwin moved to approve the February 20, 2019 Commission Minutes and Commissioner Hodgdon 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 McInnis moved to approve the consent agenda items 2a.-2d., as presented below, and Commissioner Carr seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Frank Dubisz, Manchester, NH, to be utilized by the “Let’s Go Fishing Program”.

2b.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$250.00 from Keith J. Watling, Southborough, MA, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account, to purchase avalanche receivers.

2c.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Charles C. Doe, American Inns of Court, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2d.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$2,500.00 from the Meredith Rotary Club, to be utilized by the Large Lakes Program.

3.) Commissioner Patch moved to change the April 10, 2019 Commission Meeting to April 18, 2019, in order to comply with rulemaking scheduling requirements as it relates to the Moose Lottery and Commissioner Green seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

There will be a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Moose Lottery on April 8, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., at Fish & Game HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH, (East & West conference rooms).

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, reviewed the monthly financial statement dated February 28, 2019.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner Carr, Chair: Commissioners Luppi & Temple.

Chairman Carr reported that the Policy Committee met briefly to draft a resolution to address the proper use of Commissioner's badges that reads as follows:

- * NH Fish & Game Commissioners may, at their own expense, purchase a NH Fish & Game Commissioner's badge.
- * This badge shall be kept in a wallet or other appropriate badge holder. The badge is for identification only and shall not be displayed in any manner where the general public may mistake a commissioner for a law enforcement or conservation officer.
- * RSA 104:28-a False Personation ---Any person who knowingly and falsely assumes or exercises the functions, powers, duties, or privileges incident to the office of Sheriff, state police officer, police officer of any city or town, or any other law enforcement officer or investigator employed by any state, country or political subdivision of a state or country, or who wears or displays without authority any uniform, badge, or other identification by which such Sheriff, officer, or investigator is lawfully identified, and with the intent to be recognized as such, shall be guilty of a class B felony.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Stohl, Chair; Commissioners Green, Hodgdon, Patch & Baldwin.

Chairman Stohl reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting. He reported that Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator, provided a legislative update and reported that "crossover" would take place on March 28, 2019.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the Committee did not meet this month.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Tanya Haskell, Administrative Assistant, reported that the nomination paperwork has been submitted for Commissioner Temple to replace Commissioner Millette on the Lakes Committee.

HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE: Commissioner Patch, Chair; Commissioner Carr. Commissioner Patch reported that the committee did not meet. He reported that the committee was working on updating the handbook and encouraged anyone with changes/additions, to submit them at their earliest convenience for consideration.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair: Commissioners Temple, Baldwin & Stohl.

Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the committee did not meet.

WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION: Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the Wildlife Heritage Foundation met on March 6, 2019 to review department requests for Durant Funds. He reported that a total of \$30,600.00 was awarded for the following:

- Fish Species Signs for Hatcheries
- Schoolyard Wildlife Action Grants
- Vertical Pollinator Garden
- Wi-Fi for Discovery Room
- Wild Times for Kids
- Wildlife Education School and Community Youth Programs

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Baldwin, Chair; Commissioners Carr & Luppi. Staff Members: Colonel Kevin Jordan, Nicola Whitley, Chief, Public Affairs Division & Allison Keating, Federal Aid Specialist.

Chairman Baldwin reported that the committee met and voted on award nominations. Tanya reported that she has notified the award recipients and has ordered the Commission Awards of Excellence, to be presented at the April 18, 2019 Commission Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER BALDWIN: Commissioner Baldwin had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER CARR: Commissioner Carr had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER TEMPLE: Commissioner Temple was absent.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER GREEN: Commissioner Green had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER HODGDON: Commissioner Hodgdon had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER LUPPI: Commissioner Luppi was absent.

COMMISSIONER PATCH: Commissioner Patch had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER MCINNIS: Commissioner McInnis had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER STOHL: Commissioner Stohl had nothing to report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Normandeau reported that he recently attended the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference in Denver, Colorado.

He reported that there has been legislation proposed to provide federal monies to address Chronic Wasting Disease. The details of the bill have not been ironed out, as the bill has not passed as of yet.

Further, he reported that Timothy Buzinski has been hired as the Chief of the Facilities & Lands Division. He reported that Tim comes from the Department of Transportation and would be starting at the end of March.

He reported that the Department has closed on the Ruger & Kimball Hill properties.

In addition, he reported that there would be a site visit at Downing's Landing, in Alton, NH, for bidders to view and bid on the installation of a coffer dam. The hope is to have it completed by the fall of 2019.

He reported that House Finance voted to approve the Governor's proposed budget for the Fish & Game Department this week. He reported that it included \$2,000,000 + each year of general funds, which a great deal will go to the Law Enforcement Division to support their needs. In addition, it will allow the Department to refund 5 of the 14 unfunded positions, 2 of which are Conservation Officers. He stated, "It was a good outcome for the Department."

Further, he reported that he attended a Capital Budget Meeting earlier in the day, where the Department requested \$350,000 to do upgrades at our facilities across the State; however, they wanted to give us \$740,000. I explained we did not need that much money, which was well received.

In closing, Director Normandeau reported that Governor Sununu & Frank Edelblut, Commissioner, Department of Education, are trying to create a program for kids to obtain credit in schools for certain activities, such as hunter education. He reported that he met with Elliot Gault, of the Governor's Staff, and Laura Ryder, Hunter Education Supervisor, to have further discussion. He reported that he would keep the Commission updated on the subject.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Buck Mercier, audience member, spoke about New Hampshire's "Dream Hunt", a nonprofit organization with a mission to grant hunting & fishing dreams to a child in New Hampshire, age 21 and younger, with a life-threatening illness or life threatening disability. He reported that both Senator Watters and Representative L'Heureux were sponsors of this bill. He stated, "I have been involved with this in the past and it is a great program, with lots of dedicated people that make it happen."

At this time, 1:41 p.m., Commissioner Hodgdon moved to adjourn and Commissioner Stohl seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Carr, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman