



## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commissioners Present: R. Phillipson, F. Bird, P. DeBow, D. Patch, P. McInnis, R. Green, B. Temple C. Luppi, M. Lachance, C. Hodgdon & E. Stohl.

Commissioners absent/excused:

Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Phillipson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.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 Stohl moved to approve the August 14, 2019 Commission Minutes and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner DeBow moved to hold the October 9, 2019 Commission Meeting at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, 387 Perch Pond Road, Holderness, NH, and Commissioner Stohl seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

At 11:20 a.m., pursuant to RSA 91:A-3, Commissioner Hodgdon moved to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter and to reconvene at 1:00 p.m., and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners present: Commissioner Hodgdon "yes", Commissioner McInnis "yes", Commissioner Patch "yes", Commissioner Stohl "yes", Commissioner Luppi "yes", Commissioner Temple "yes", Commissioner Green "yes", Commissioner Lachance "yes", Commissioner DeBow "yes", Commissioner Bird "yes", and Commissioner Phillipson "yes".

At 1:20 p.m., Commissioner Stohl moved to come out of the non-public session and to seal the minutes of the meeting and Commissioner Hodgdon seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners present: Commissioner Hodgdon "yes", Commissioner McInnis "yes", Commissioner Patch "yes", Commissioner Stohl "yes", Commissioner Luppi "yes", Commissioner Temple "yes", Commissioner Green "yes", Commissioner Lachance "yes", Commissioner DeBow "yes", Commissioner Bird "yes", and Commissioner Phillipson "yes".

The meeting reconvened at 1:25 p.m., and the Chairman asked for a moment of silence recognizing those individuals lost during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

At 1:28 p.m., Commissioner Hodgdon departed the meeting.

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 Patch moved to approve the consent agenda items 2a.-2d., as presented below, and Commissioner Lachance seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission accepted the donation of a 1994 Equinox winter rescue sled from the Antrim Fire Department, valued at \$400.00, to be utilized during search & rescue missions.

2b.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from the Lake Wicwas Association, Inc., Meredith, NH, to be utilized by the Wildlife Division's Bear Project.

2c.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$10.00 from Meridith Bienvenue, Philadelphia, PA, to be utilized by the "Conservation Education Program."

2d.) The Commission accepted the following donations totaling \$955.00, in memory of David Lancot, Manchester, NH, to be utilized by the "Let's Go Fishing Program":

David & Marilyn Marshall, Scarsdale, NY -	\$200.00
Diane Lancot, Manchester, NH -	\$505.00
Barbara Rousseau, Manchester, NH -	\$ 25.00
Sandra Palmer, Manchester, NH -	\$ 25.00
Charles, Susan & Sarah Piotrowski, Manchester, NH -	\$ 50.00
Dian Kalisz, Manchester, NH -	\$ 50.00
Gosselin Family Revocable Trust, Manchester, NH -	\$ 50.00
Mesmer & Deleault PLL, Manchester, NH -	\$ 50.00
	Total: \$955.00

3.) Jason Smith, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, came before the Commission seeking approval to contribute up to \$150,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to conserve 259 acres along the Ammonoosuc River in Bethlehem, NH.

Commissioner Luppi reported that she visited the property and stated, "It's a nice area and I appreciate what you are doing. I've heard many positive comments."

Commissioner DeBow moved to contribute \$215,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to conserve 259 acres along the Ammonoosuc River in Bethlehem, NH, and Commissioner Stohl seconded.

Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stohl inquired as to how much money the Forest Society was contributing?

Tom Howe, Senior Director, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, reported that the total fundraising goal was \$565,000, the purchase price of \$390,000, with approximately \$170,000 to cover additional conservation easement costs.

Commissioner Patch stated, “Money is tight here and I’m not in favor of spending more than we need to. I would like to see the contribution stay at \$150,000”.

A vote was taken on the above motion to contribute \$215,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to conserve 259 acres along the Ammonoosuc River in Bethlehem, NH and failed 2 in favor, 6 opposed, with 1 abstention (M. Lachance).

Commissioner Patch moved to contribute \$150,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to conserve 259 acres along the Ammonoosuc River in Bethlehem, NH, and Commissioner McInnis seconded. The vote carried with 8 in favor and 1 abstention (M. Lachance).

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) Jason Smith provided an overview of current proposed Administrative Rules submitted by the Inland Fisheries Division. He reported that rule making proposal public hearing would be held tonight, September 11, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at Fish & Game HQ. He reported that most of the package consists of the re-adoption of existing rules without change, however, also some clarifications of special regulation boundaries for rivers and streams. The package also involves removing some language that was in place for the Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Program, which ended in 2013 and is obsolete. He further reported that staff also plan to simplify the special regulations table and improve our bass tournament lottery process. In addition, some of the reporting forms for tournaments will be incorporated by reference, rather spelled out in rule as they currently are.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Phillipson thanked Jason for the update.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Temple, Chair; Commissioners Luppi, Lachance & Bird. No report.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Stohl, Chair; Commissioners Green, Hodgdon, Patch & DeBow. No report.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon departed the meeting prior to the report.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Temple reported that the next meeting was scheduled for October 30, 2019, at the Department of Environmental Services.

**HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Patch, Chair; Commissioner Green. Commissioner Patch reported that the committee did not meet, however, reported that there would be a handout at the next meeting.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair; Commissioners Temple, Stohl & DeBow. Commissioner Hodgdon departed the meeting prior to the report.

**WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION:** Commissioner Hodgdon departed the meeting prior to the report.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Luppi, Chair; Commissioners Bird & Lachance. Commissioner Luppi reported that the committee would be meeting in the near future.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Director Normandeau reported that the Department was served with another petition from Rick Van de Poll, of The New Hampshire Wildlife Coalition, relative to coyote killing contests. He reported that he was not sure that the Department has the rulemaking authority to address the issue, however, reported that he would obtain an opinion from the Attorney General's Office.

He further reported that there was a bill being filed relative to the methods of take for turkey.

Commissioners Luppi & Bird both stated that this would open up additional options for hunters and that they would welcome change.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Colonel Jordan provided an informative presentation relative to Search & Rescue. He provided information on the following subjects:

- \*The Funding for Search & Rescue
- \*Rigorous Training
- \*History
- \*Hike Safe Program

You can find this information on our website at: [www.wildlife.nh.us/law-enforcement/sar.html](http://www.wildlife.nh.us/law-enforcement/sar.html).

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER BIRD:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER DEBOW:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER TEMPLE:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER LACHANCE:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER HODGDON:** Departed prior to report.

**COMMISSIONER LUPPI:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER PATCH:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER MCINNIS:** Nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER STOHL:** Nothing to report at this time.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Normandeau reported that he would be attending a Marine Hearing tonight, September 11, 2019, relative to North Atlantic Right Whales and the Lobster Industry.

He reported that he would provide an overview of how the budget process works at 10:00 a.m., the morning of the October 9, 2019 Commission Meeting, being held at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, 387 Perch Pond Rd, Holderness, NH.

He reported that there have been some unexpected delays at Downing's Landing, Alton, NH. He reported that there is some buried timber affecting the installment of the coffer dam and that the Department was currently working to address that.

He reported that the Department got approval from CORD (Council on Resources & Development) to sell the Brentwood property and that the next step would be to go before the Governor & Council for approval.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Chris Schadler, Webster, NH, invited the Commission to attend "The Real Eastern Coyote Talk", on September 12, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., at the Newmarket Public Library, 1 Elm St, Newmarket, NH.

Julia Sinclair, Newmarket, NH, expressed her concern that the Department did not take a firm stand on the recent duck violence & killing by Kennett High School football players.

Director Normandeau responded and stated, "When dealing with minor children, you have to be very careful about what you can legally say."

Representative Harvey, Chesterfield, NH, was present at the meeting and confirmed Director Normadeau's statement regarding discussions involving minors and the need to be very cautious.

Kristina Snyder, Chester, NH, voiced her concern over the early start date of the gray squirrel hunting season.

Steven Angers, Conway, NH, thanked the Commission for donating \$150,000 to conserve 259 acres along the Ammonoosuc River in Bethlehem, NH, for expanded fishing opportunities.

At this time, 3:08 p.m., Commissioner Bird moved to adjourn and Commissioner DeBow seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Green, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Phillipson, Chairman