

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### FEBRUARY 12, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Commissioners absent/excused: C. Luppi & P. McInnis

Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Phillipson called the meeting to order at 12:00 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.

Commissioner Patch moved to go into a non-public session and Commissioner Lachance seconded. A roll call vote was taken at this time, Commissioner Patch, “Yes”, Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner Hodgdon, “Yes”, Commissioner Phillipson, “Yes” and Commissioner Bird, “Yes”. The motion carried with 8 in favor, 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

At 1:30 p.m., Commissioner Stohl moved to come out of the non-public session and Commissioner Patch seconded. A roll call vote was taken at this time, Commissioner Patch, “Yes”, Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner Hodgdon, “Yes”, Commissioner Phillipson, “Yes” and Commissioner Bird, “Yes”. The motion carried with 8 in favor, 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

Commissioner Stohl moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session and Commissioner Patch seconded. A roll call vote was taken at this time, Commissioner Patch, “Yes”, Commissioner Stohl, “Yes”, Commissioner Temple, “Yes”, Commissioner Green, “Yes”, Commissioner Lachance, “Yes”, Commissioner Hodgdon, “Yes”, Commissioner Phillipson, “Yes” and Commissioner Bird, “Yes”. The motion carried with 8 in favor, 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1.) Commissioner Hodgdon moved to approve the January 15, 2020 Commission Minutes, as written, and Commissioner Lachance seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

1a.) Commissioner Stohl moved to approve the January 29, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Minutes, as written, and Commissioner Green seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

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 Stohl moved to approve consent agenda items 2a. – 2g., as presented, and Commissioner Bird seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

2a.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$1.00 from The Andover Fish & Game Club, Andover, NH, to be utilized by the Inland Fisheries Division.

2b.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$1,000 from David & Grace Mann, Merrimack, NH, to be utilized by the Statewide Public Boat Access Program.

2c.) The Commission accepted the donation of \$100.00 in memory of Jimmy O'Rourke, Deerfield, NH, from James O'Rourke, Deerfield, NH, to be utilized by the Aquatic Education Program.

2d.) The Commission accepted the following donations totaling \$75.00, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

Clyde, Elizabeth & Cynthia Collishaw, Nashua, NH -	\$20.00
Pamela Ward, Lyndeborough, NH -	\$20.00
Barbara Gosse, Alamenda, CA -	<u>\$35.00</u>
Total:	\$75.00

2e.) The Commission accepted the following donations in memory of David Robinson, Sr., Dummer/Lincoln, NH, totaling \$65.00, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

James & Catherine Cummings, West Roxbury, MA -	\$25.00
Riverbank Motel & Cabins, North Woodstock, NH -	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total:	\$65.00

2f.) The Commission accepted the following donations in memory of Dale Helmbrecht, Little River, SC, totaling \$75.00, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

Edward & Beverly Smith, Nashua, NH -	\$25.00
Constance Beyer, Nashua, NH -	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total:	\$75.00

2g.) The Commission accepted a grant donation in the amount of \$1,994.00 from Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Outdoor Fund, to be utilized to purchase items for Barry Conservation Camp.

3.) John Magee, Inland Fisheries Biologist, came back before the Commission and provided additional information relative to the request to expend up to \$50,000 from the Fisheries Habitat

Account to remove a significant barrier to fish, the South Branch Gale River Dam in Bethlehem, NH.

He shared some recent cost estimates with the Commission, such as:

General Conditions - \$30,000 – includes costs associated with baseline control and survey, site preparation and maintenance (such as tree removal, grubbing on both sides of river, etc), and site perimeter fencing and erosion controls.

Site access and cleanup - \$12,000 – includes site access (access road maintenance, stone tracking pad, etc.) facilities, and site cleanup at end of work.

Water Management - \$50,000 – includes gravity bypass conduit and provisions for pumping (dewatering) for concrete demo and excavation (e.g., pump equipment, sediment bags, etc.)

Excavation and Demolition - \$385,000 – includes excavation costs, concrete demolition costs, concrete disposal, partial removal of timber crib, repositioning of material in river, and decommissioning of water supply conduits. John reported that the item with the most uncertainty, depending on what is actually encountered subgrade in the field, such as reinforced concrete, which can be very expensive to disassemble and dispose of.

Site Restoration - \$15,000 – includes costs associated with topsoil, seeding, erosion sediment controls, potential placement of large woody material, and plantings (if any).

After much discussion, Commissioner Hodgdon moved to approve expending up to \$50,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to remove a significant barrier to fish, the South Branch Gale River Dam in Bethlehem, NH, and Commissioner Stohl seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor, 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

4.) Mark Ellingwood, Chief, Wildlife Division, and various Game Project Leaders, came back before the Commission and revisited the rulemaking proposals, as part of the biennial rulemaking process. They informed the Commission of a few minor modifications made after receiving input at the January 15, 2020 Commission Meeting. Mark further reported that they would be seeking the Commission's formal adoption of the proposals at today's meeting.

Commissioner Stohl moved to go forward with the Department's Initial Season Proposals as presented, and Commissioner Patch seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor, 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

Mark announced that the Department would hold 3 Public Hearings on the season proposals as follows:

- March 24, 2020 - Keene High School, Keene, NH, @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 25, 2020 - Region 1 Fish & Game Office, Lancaster, NH, @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 26, 2020 - NH Fish & Game HQ, Concord, NH, @ 6:30 p.m.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Luppi, Chair; Commissioners Temple, Lachance & Bird. Commissioner Luppi was absent, however, Commissioner Temple reported that there was no meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Stohl, Chair; Commissioners Green, Hodgdon, Patch & DeBow. Commissioner Stohl reported that the committee did not meet. He referred to Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator. Paul reviewed the following legislation with the Commission:

SB-588, relative to wanton waste of an animal and prohibiting wildlife killing contests. The Commission chose to keep their position of "Oppose as written".

HB-1220, relative to disabled veterans fishing and hunting licenses. The Commission chose to keep their position of "Oppose as written".

HB-1566, relative to fishing licenses for senior veterans. The Commission chose to keep their position of "Oppose as written".

HB-1504, relative to establishing a committee to study prohibiting recreational trapping. The Commission chose to keep their position of "Oppose".

HB-1115, relative to the discharge of a firearm in the compact part of a city or town. The Commission chose to keep their position of "Oppose".

Paul distributed a list of Wildlife Season Setting Rules, identifying a list of sections affected (See attached).

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the next meeting had not been scheduled yet, however, reported that it would be a joint meeting with the Lakes Committee.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Temple reported that the committee met on January 16, 2020, however, they did not have a quorum, therefore, did not have a formal meeting. He also reported that the next meeting would be a joint meeting with the Rivers Committee.

**HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Patch, Chair; Commissioner Green. Commissioner Patch reported that there would a meeting scheduled in the near future. He further reported that Heidi Holman, Nongame & Endangered Species Biologist, has offered her assistance in updating the handbook.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair: Commissioners Temple, Stohl & DeBow. Commissioner Hodgdon had no report.

**WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION:** Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the grant process was just getting underway, with Department staff finalizing what projects will be brought before the Wildlife Heritage Foundation for requests for funding.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Luppi, Chair; Commissioners Bird & Lachance. Commissioner Luppi was absent, therefore, Commissioner Lachance reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting and reviewed the Commission Awards winners list for the various categories. He distributed a copy of the list to all Commissioners for their review & input.

Commissioner Lachance moved to approve the Commission Awards winners list and to move forward with the awards process and Commissioner Patch seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor, 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

**SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Stohl; Chairman, Commissioners Phillipson, McInnis, Green and Patch. Commissioner Stohl reported that the search process was ongoing.

**OLD BUSINESS:** N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Phillipson reported that the Commission received correspondence from the Chiefs as to potential presentations on various matters that could take place at Commission Meetings. He inquired as to whether the nongame & endangered species staff could provide a presentation on the rattlesnake project. After discussion, it was determined that this presentation would be on the May Commission Agenda.

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

**COMMISSIONER LUPPI:** Absent from meeting.

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

**COMMISSIONER MCINNIS:** Absent from meeting.

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

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Normandeau reported that the Brentwood Game Farm has been sold. He further reported the money from the sale of the property will be used towards upgrading the Emery Farm, in Greenland, NH. Some of the renovations include:

- \* Restoration of the farmhouse.
- \* Demolition or restoration of several out buildings.
- \* Development of a public boat access to Great Bay.

He further reported that the department received the testing results on the 16 animals tested for PFOAs (Perfluorooctanoic acid) at Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, NH. He reported that there was no detection of PFOAs in the meat of the 16 animals, however, 3 animals had modest amounts found in their livers, although, not above the monthly consumption guidelines. He stated, "This is fairly good news, however, it is there."

In addition, he reported that building security is in effect at HQ and seems to be working smoother than expected.

He reported that the Department would be conducting interviews for the Marine Division Chief and the Landowner Relations Coordinator in the near future.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Lionel "Buck" Mercier, Hooksett, NH, announced that he was unhappy with the fact that he lost his points in the moose lottery due to being hospitalized. He reported that he explained the situation in writing and was rejected. He stated, "I have been putting in since the lottery inception and have not missed a year. I think there should be exceptions."

In addition, he expressed his displeasure with the Unit A baiting applications. He stated that in his opinion, bait sites are allowed to be too close in proximity and he would like to see that changed. He reported that he felt bait sites should be ¼ mile apart and that the State of Maine requires bait sites be at least 1 mile apart.

Steve Angers, Conway, NH, was in attendance and read aloud a letter on behalf of Mike Croteau, Chairman, NH Council – Trout Unlimited. The letter is in support of the current make up and methods of which the Fish & Game Commission is selected. The letter states that Trout Unlimited has a long and successful history of working in cooperation with the Commission and the Department, including the Law Enforcement Division and the Inland Fisheries Division. The letter indicates that The NH Council of Trout Unlimited would be diligently opposing HB-1571 and sending opposition letters to members of the House Fish, Game & Marine Resources Committee.

At this time, 3:25 p.m., Commissioner Green moved to adjourn and Commissioner Bird seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor, 1 abstention (P. DeBow).

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Green, Secretary

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