

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### JANUARY 11, 2017 COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Commissioners absent/excused: B. Carr  
Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Tichy called the meeting to order at 2:20 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 Tichy asked the audience to join in a moment of silence in memory of Diane Chouinard, Custodian, assigned to Fish & Game, who recently passed away in a motor vehicle accident.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1.) Commissioner Greco moved to approve the December 14, 2016 Commission Minutes as written, and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 2.) Steve White, Chairman, and Gail Huntting, Administrator, both of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH, came before the Commission seeking their participation in the drawing of the 10 winning tickets, celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH as follows:

Mike S. – Bow, NH -	Four hour guided kayak fishing trip (Courtesy of Tim Moore Outdoors).
Christina M. – Merrimack, NH -	Day in the field with the Fish & Game Bear Biologist.
Jeff M. – Candia, NH -	2 nights stay for 2 at the Cabins at Lopstick in Pittsburg, NH.
Carina C. – Contoocook, NH -	Day in the field with a Fish & Game Conservation Officer.
Tom C. – Canaan, VT -	\$350 Visa gift card from the NH Fish & Game Commission & Executive Director.

Kevin J. – Concord, NH -	Lite Speed Razor Hunting Blind.
Phil B. – Lee, NH -	\$100.00 gift card to Hubert Outfitters.
Phil B. – Lee, NH -	Gift certificate to winter workshop of Becoming An Outdoors Woman.
Bart B. – Wilmot, NH	Ruger American 308 Rifle with Vortex Crossfire II Scope.
Carol W. – Wilmot, NH -	5' x 8' ATV/Utility trailer.

Steve thanked the Commission for their participation and generous donation. He stated, "I'd like to thank everyone who purchased tickets to support our mission, as we work to protect and sustain the wild places and wild things that make New Hampshire a special place, and toward preserving the resources and habitats for generations to come."

3.) Commissioner Greco moved to approve the following memorial donations totaling \$1,910.00, in memory of John Holden, who died on Bond Cliff in Lincoln, NH, on December 25, 2016 and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. (Breakdown of donations/donors attached).

Colonel Jordan reported that individuals were asked to make donations to the Search & Rescue Equipment Account for future use by the Department's Search & Rescue Team to help offset costs to purchase Bothy Bags (emergency shelters).

4.) Commissioner Patch moved to accept the donation of books, camera equipment, and other miscellaneous items, valued at \$1,750.00, from the late Robert Durant, Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, came back before the Commission seeking approval to expend up to \$10,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to conserve 23 acres along the Nissitissit River in Brookline, NH.

John reported that this was part of a larger project to conserve an additional 55 acres that borders the Nissitissit River, restore an eroded streambank and create a new boat launch on the river.

Commissioner Patch moved to expend the \$10,000 as requested above and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Patch stated, “John provided a good overview of this item at last months’ meeting.”

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, discussed the monthly financial statement dated December 31, 2016 with the Commission.

2.) Mark Ellingwood, Chief, Wildlife Division, & Dan Bergeron, Deer Biologist, came before the Commission and provided an overview of draft game management proposals.

Dan reported that although 2017 is not a biennial season setting year for the Department (2016 was the most recent season setting year, which included a comprehensive review of existing seasons, permits, either sex days, etc., and entailed multiple hearings), the Department reviewed the below game management proposals:

1.) Proposal that provides the department with the authority to restrict the feeding of deer when said feeding has been documented to be detrimental to the health of the deer population or a threat to public safety.

2.) Proposal that authorizes the department to issue special deer permits for use in designated special deer management areas with documented deer conflicts that cannot be resolved through NH’s regular deer hunting season framework.

3.) Rule that clarifies that bait can only be placed during designated open seasons for baiting.

Dan further reported there was a potential 4<sup>th</sup> proposal dealing with regional moose permit issuance that was under consideration by the department, pending data analysis that will be completed by February 1, 2017.

Much discussion ensued.

These proposals will be brought back before the Commission as an Action Item at the February 8, 2017 Commission Meeting.

3.) Director Normandeau reported that the department received a grant to go to SE Land Trust to purchase 1,500 acres that abuts a small piece of property the department owns at Stonehouse Pond. He stated, “It’s a great piece of land that we, the department, would hold the easement over.” He further reported that the USFWS would be coordinating the announcement of that grant.

4.) Director Normandeau discussed the Ducks Unlimited Canadian Grant with the Commission. He reported that in the past the Commission committed to providing five years of funding, however, the 5 year period has lapsed. He reported that Ducks Unlimited Canada was looking for an additional commitment from the department, if possible.

Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Phillipson moved that the department commit to providing Ducks Unlimited Canada with \$10,000/year, for a five year period, from the Wildlife Habitat Account, to continue the important work they do relative to nesting areas, etc., and Commissioner Patch seconded.

Commissioner Clews stated, "I heard from hunters who were concerned as to whether or not the department was going to commit to continuing to assist with funding."

Commissioner Hubert stated, "Good investment!"

Mark Ellingwood suggested that the Commission think about the funding possibly being split between the Game Management Account and the Wildlife Habitat Account.

After much discussion, Commissioner Phillipson moved to amend his motion to have the \$10,000/year, for five years, be split evenly between the Game Management Account and the Wildlife Habitat Account, Commissioner Patch amended his second to the motion, as well. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Chairman Tichy inquired about the opportunity of bringing forward any new legislation or changes to existing rules to the wildlife division for review.

He reported that he had heard a lot of discussion on the potential to push up the date to train bear dogs.

Mark Ellingwood reminded the Commission that this was not a biennial hearing year and that the Governor has put a moratorium on introducing any rulemaking for 90 days.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioners; Commissioners McGonagle & Clews.  
Commissioner McGonagle reported that the committee did not meet.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Morse, Chair; Commissioners Hubert, Greco, Patch, and Baldwin. Commissioner Morse reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting to discuss the following legislation:

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-84, relative to carrying a loaded rifle, shotgun, or crossbow in a vehicle or boat, Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to monitor HB-97-FN, relative to the use of drones, Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-126, relative to prohibiting hunting on Willand Pond in Strafford County, Commissioner Greco seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-132, relative to allowing hunting adventure permits to be used by certain non-resident applicants, Commissioner Greco seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-163, relative to the responsibility of a municipality to enforce its ordinances, Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-171, relative to prohibiting the state or its political subdivisions from assisting a federal agency in the collection of electronic data without a warrant, Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-190 as written, relative to the wildlife habitat account and the fisheries habitat account, Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to monitor HB-195, relative to establishing a committee to study temporary seasonal docks, Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-211, relative to temporary OHRV registrations for nonresidents, Commissioner Phillipson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-212-FN-L, relative to police attendance at public meetings and functions, Commissioner Baldwin seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-224, relative to repealing the provision for nonresident student hunting and fishing licenses, Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to support HB-237, relative to establishing a committee to study helmet and restraint laws for youth operators and passengers of OHRV's and snowmobiles, Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-248 as written, relative to the operation of OHRV's on trail connectors in Coos and Grafton Counties, Commissioner Baldwin seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose HB-315 as written, relative to persons who may accompany a youth operator of an OHRV or a snowmobile, Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Morse moved to oppose SB-12-FN as written, relative to repealing the licensing requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver, Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Ryan reported that the committee did not meet.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Clews reported that the committee would be meeting on January 13, 2017.

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

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Greco, Chair; Commissioners McGonagle, Tichy and Phillipson. Commissioner Greco reported that the committee was sunset at this point.

**WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION:** Commissioner Greco reported that the drawing for the “10, 10, 10” was today. He congratulated all the lucky winners and thanked them for supporting the Wildlife Heritage Foundation & the Fish & Game Department.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Commissioners Hubert, Chair; Commissioners Baldwin, Phillipson and McGonagle. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee met and reviewed the Commission Awards of Excellence Nominations. He further reported that the Committee would be meeting again in the near future to finalize their selections.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Commission read the following resolution honoring Eric Kaminsky for his efforts in the moose capturing study:

*Honoring Eric Kaminsky and the Berlin Regional Airport*

*Whereas the ecological, economic and recreational values of moose constitute significant elements of New Hampshire’s natural heritage;*

*Whereas, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, The University of New Hampshire and New Hampshire’s citizenry place significant value on the wellbeing of New Hampshire’s moose population;*

*Whereas, research into declining moose numbers is essential to our understanding and successful management of New Hampshire’s moose population;*

*Whereas, the Berlin Regional Airport, under the oversight of Airport Manager Eric Kaminsky, has played a critical role in facilitating the safe, efficient and successful capture of several hundred moose for research purposes over the past 2 decades, by making available their excellent facilities to Fish and Game and the University of New Hampshire;*

*Therefore Be It Resolved, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department publicly expresses our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Berlin Regional Airport and to Airport Manager Eric Kaminsky, for facilitating this critical work and in so doing, for helping to further our understanding of moose population dynamics in New Hampshire, the Northeast and throughout North America.*

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*Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director  
NH Fish & Game Department*

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*Ted Tichy, Chairman  
NH Fish & Game Commission*

**OLD BUSINESS: NA**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director Normandeau reported that he received an e-mail from the Governor's Office relative to meeting with the transition Budget Director. He reported that he would be pleading to explain what the department's funding situation is. He stated, "I hope they give us adequate time to review things with them."

He further reported that he hoped to have a 1 on 1 meeting with the new Governor to explain what we do as an agency and how it affects the State of New Hampshire.

Chairman Tichy thanked Director Normandeau and the Commission for arriving early to meet the House Fish, Game & Marine Resources Committee. He stated, "They seem like a friendly group."

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

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

**COMMISSIONER CARR:** Commissioner Carr was absent, therefore, no report.

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

**COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON:** Commissioner Phillipson had nothing to report at this time.

**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 had nothing to report at this time.

**COMMISSIONER CLEWS:** Commissioner Clews reported that he attended a Marine Advisory Committee Meeting where there was much discussion relative to obtaining aquaculture permits for Kelp, which is big in the Gulf of Maine.

**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, Wildlife Steward & audience member, spoke relative to 2 Commissioners attending an informational seminar in Newfields, NH. He stated, "It was good to see them at the meeting and I thank them for helping answer questions from the public."

He further spoke to the need for stewards to have additional training on different species, so they can take that back to the clubs, etc., and provide additional informational talks."

Commissioner Ryan moved to adjourn at 4:06 p.m., and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

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