

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

APRIL 12, 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, B. Carr and W. Morse.

Commissioners absent/excused:
Executive Director Normandeau – Present

Chairman Tichy called the meeting to order at 1:04 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 February 8, 2017 Commission Minutes as written, and Commissioner Greco seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 2.) Chairman Tichy welcomed everyone to the Commission Meeting and recognized the large audience present. He announced that Commissioner Hubert would be presenting the 2016 Commission Awards of Excellence, with Commissioner Baldwin presenting the first two awards as follows:

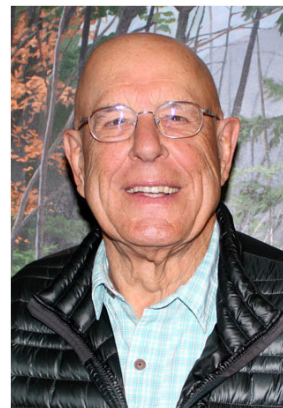
HABITAT STEWARDSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Commissioner Baldwin presented Art Greene, Littleton, NH, with the Habitat Stewardship Award of Excellence. He reported that Art can easily be described as a man with a clear passion for brook trout and rivers. For many years, he has engaged students from kindergarten through college in various stewardship activities such as river clean-ups and stream habitat assessments.

He has helped to inform local leadership and residents about the challenges and opportunities of natural resource stewardship in northern New Hampshire.

Art has been an integral partner of NH Fish and Game, especially in the recent stream crossing protocols project, which involved assessing over 1,000 stream crossings statewide.

Art's service continues to stimulate community-scale discussions of stream stewardship within the Ammonoosuc Watershed, drawing the attention of local municipal leaders and river



advisory committees. He has been successful in securing financial support for watershed protection work from local, regional and national funders.

Letters of support received on behalf of Art's nomination said it well: "Art's most enduring quality perhaps is his huge heart. Art has a heart as big as the White Mountains that he loves and inhabits. He is among the most humble and kind people I have met in my life."

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Commissioner Baldwin presented Nancy Bell, Shrewsbury, VT, with the Conservation



Organization Award of Excellence. He reported that Nancy is the New Hampshire and Vermont Director of The Conservation Fund and has worked with them since 1995. She is recognized among her peers for her excellent skills in communication, team building and collaboration. She has been described as a master at creating partnerships and collaboration to conserve working forests and wildlife habitat. Her unparalleled level of enthusiasm and thoughtfulness make her an ideal partner in conservation efforts in New Hampshire.

Because of Nancy Bell and The Conservation Fund's efforts, over 6,000 acres along the Beebe River and an additional 4,777 acres along the Androscoggin River are now conserved.

Altogether, the Conservation Fund has been instrumental in conserving 36,275 acres of important habitats in New Hampshire. These areas have outstanding habitat values and all are open to the public for outdoor recreation, including wildlife watching, hunting and fishing.

VOLUNTEER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Commissioner Hubert presented Jessie Tichko, Canterbury, NH, with the Volunteer Award of Excellence. He reported that Jessie is a long-time volunteer of the Department, who is involved in many different programs. She is a volunteer instructor for the Let's Go Fishing and Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) programs. She serves on planning committees for BOW and the Department's Wild Game Culinary Adventure. She is on the fundraising committee for Barry Conservation Camp and volunteers at the Department's big spring event, Discover WILD NH Day.



The many letters of support received for Jessie describe her as "a force to be reckoned with." "Kind and patient nature." "Embodies the true spirit and meaning of this award." "Not quite sure when she sleeps." From hunting to fishing, to tying her own flies, to volunteering, Jessie simply does it all. And she does it all with the biggest, most contagious smile you have ever seen."

“Jessie’s extraordinary efforts and personal touch makes Fish and Game Programs excel,” said Fish and Game Commissioner Tom Hubert. “She truly is an ambassador for Fish and Game, and for the future of hunting and fishing.”

YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Commissioner Hubert presented the Oyster River High School Sustainability Club, Durham, NH, with the Youth Conservationist Award of Excellence. He reported that Jon Bromley & Students from Oyster River High School Sustainability Club represent the future of land conservation in New Hampshire. Over the past year, they have worked diligently to protect 285 acres in the towns of Madbury, Durham and Lee. Last December, they organized an Italian dinner and raffle event that raised \$4,295. Through this project, the students are learning what it takes to conserve land and wildlife habitats. They have engaged their local community and collaborated directly with peers, teachers and conservation organizations such as the Forest Society. The area, known as the Powder Major Farm and Forest, will also serve as an outdoor learning classroom for future students in the local communities.

“These students embody the mission of the NH Fish and Game Department,” said Commissioner Tom Hubert. “Their efforts will not only conserve important natural resources in their community, but also provide opportunities for the public to use and appreciate these resources for generations to come.”



In addition, two ***YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST CERTIFICATES*** were presented.



Christopher Heckman, Deerfield, NH, is 12 years old and has been volunteering at the Great Bay Discovery Center since he was 6. In just the past three years, since Discovery Center staff began recording his volunteer hours, he has accumulated 74 hours of volunteer time. He has been described as one of the “most well-versed unofficial spokespeople” for the NH Fish and Game Department.

Christopher educates visitors at the Great Bay Discovery Center’s touch tank. He also volunteers at the Discover WILD New Hampshire Day event held in Concord each spring. There, he can be found educating people about horseshoe crabs at the Great Bay Discovery Center’s table or walking around the event

dressed up in a horseshoe crab costume. Wherever he goes, Christopher is a true ambassador of New Hampshire's fish, wildlife and marine resources.

Hannah Verville of Loudon, NH, is 10 years old, full of enthusiasm and energy and loves Barry Conservation Camp. She has attended Barry Camp for three years and will be there again this summer. When Hannah learned that there was a fundraising campaign taking place for an addition to expand the dining hall and provide indoor classroom space, she wanted to help.



With the help of her mother and grandmother, Hannah organized a cookie sale. She designed and distributed a flyer to advertise and take orders for her cookie sale. Within three days, she had orders for 70 dozen cookies (quick math: that equals 840 cookies!). Using her grandmother's recipe for chocolate chip cookies, and her mother's kitchen, Hannah raised about \$600 that put the Barry Camp Dining Hall Addition fundraising campaign over its goal.

LANDOWNER APPRECIATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Commissioner Hubert presented Conan Eaton, Lunenburg, VT, with the Landowner Appreciation Award of Excellence. Mr. Conan's land is located in Vermont, yet it provides direct access to the Connecticut River and an area known locally as Eaton's Oxbow. This area is known by anglers for its plentiful pike, pickerel, perch and crappie, and by waterfowl hunters for some of the best duck and goose hunting around.



NH CO Matt Holmes (right) and Vermont Game Warden Sargent Trevor Szymanowski (left) accept the Landowner Relations award for Conan Eaton, of Lunenburg, VT, from Fish and Game Commissioner Tom Hubert.

There is little public access to the area. Parking along the road is limited and steep embankments make getting to the water difficult and even dangerous at times.

Due to the generosity and understanding of Mr. Eaton and the Eaton Family, anglers and hunters have enjoyed years of access to this prime hunting and fishing area via the Auburn Star Farm. Hunters and anglers are allowed to drive through the farm complex and park on farm property, which undoubtedly impedes farm operations at times. Yet the Eaton's recognize the desire of the sporting public for access and graciously allow it.

In a world where nothing is free and “Posted” signs pop up like dandelions, the Eaton’s exemplify a disappearing breed of landowner whose simple gift of access is worth more than money.

COMMUNICATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Commissioner Hubert presented the Communication Award of Excellence to William



Carney, Bow, NH. Commissioner Hubert reported that many know Mr. William “Bill” Carney for his monthly column in the *Hawkeye Hunting and Fishing News*. What many may not realize is Bill’s extraordinary record of consistent communication over many years, or the amount of time, energy and research he puts into his writing.

Bill has been a member of the New England Outdoors Writers Association since the 1960s. He is a past president and now a life member and Director Emeriti of the Association. He also belongs to the Outdoor Writers Association of America; is a retired member of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoors Writers, and for ten years was a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of Canada. Prior to moving to New Hampshire, Bill wrote a weekly outdoor column for 15 years for a Lynn, Massachusetts, newspaper.

Currently Bill writes a monthly column in the *Hawkeye Hunting and Fishing News*; in fact, he was writing for the publication before it was purchased by the current owners and became known as the *Hawkeye*. His articles in the *Hawkeye* keep outdoor sports enthusiasts abreast of fishing, hunting, outdoor recreation and legislative issues. Bill has been described as one who “uses his skill and wit to look out for the best interests of New Hampshire sportsmen and sportswomen.”

From the average person’s perspective, it is hard to understand the amount of time and energy Bill puts into his writing. From phone calls, to library research to submitting Right-to-Know requests to the Department, Bill has spent countless hours over recent decades collecting and compiling information to raise awareness, defend sportsmen rights and advocate for sound wildlife management.

New Hampshire is fortunate to have an advocate such as Bill speaking and writing on behalf of hunters, anglers, trappers and conservationists alike.

ELLIS HATCH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Commissioner Hubert presented the Ellis Hatch Award of Excellence to Theodore “Ted” Walski, Langdon, NH. Ted Walski’s name is part of local history in New Hampshire for his role in restoring wild turkeys to the state. During the 1960s, wild turkeys were non-



existent in New Hampshire. Through a series of trap and transfers of wild turkeys around the state, careful monitoring, and regulated hunting seasons over the years, wild turkeys are now thriving, with an estimated 40,000 occurring statewide.

Commissioner Hubert reported that while Ted's legacy as the turkey biologist is widely known, we'd like to share a few details about this restoration that people may not know.

In the 1970s, when the turkey project was starting, NH Fish and Game did not have regional offices around the state. Ted bought a trailer from a local farmer, towed it to the State Barn in Alstead and parked it there. He put a Fish and Game sticker on it and that became his office.

Ted helped establish the first local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in New Hampshire. In the late 1970s, he organized a meeting at the Keene Junior High School and that night, the Connecticut River Valley Chapter was born.

When the Department needed to buy radio telemetry equipment to keep track of the turkeys, the National Wild Turkey Federation did a fundraiser by selling Christmas trees. The trees were purchased from the Sebago Tree Company in Colebrook, by Ted, with his own money.

During the early days of the restoration, while relocating turkeys around the state, Ted was known to sleep in barns or in his truck so he could be up early and keep track of the birds.

After working so hard to bring wild turkeys back to New Hampshire, Ted supported opening a hunting season. He put on turkey hunting seminars to recruit and train turkey hunters.

In 1980, a total of 750 permits were issued by lottery and 31 wild turkeys were harvested. In 2015, a total of 19,659 turkey tags were sold and 5,048 turkeys were harvested.

In closing, Commissioner Hubert reported there are seven award categories for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Commission Awards of Excellence. If you are aware of a worthy individual or organization, please consider nominating them for the 2017 awards. Nominations must be submitted to Tanya Haskell, Administrative Assistant, NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH, 03301, postmarked by December 31, 2017, at 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH. For a description of the award categories and a nomination form, visit www.wildnh.com/about/commission-awards.html.

3. The Law Enforcement Awards will take place at the May 10, 2017 Commission Meeting.
4. 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 Greco moved to approve consent agenda items 4a - 4i as presented below, and Commissioner Carr seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4a.) Commission accepted a \$1,300.00 donation from Richard Wang, Toronto, Canada, for assistance his son, Alex, received in Lincoln, NH, on January 5, 2017, to be utilized by the Law Enforcement Division for future search & rescue needs.

4b.) Commission accepted a \$2,000.00 donation from the Meredith Rotary Club, to be utilized for inland fisheries management, specifically the Large Lakes Program.

4c.) Commission accepted a \$40.00 donation from Minor League Bassmasters, to be utilized by the Inland Fisheries Division.

4d.) Commission accepted a \$100.00 donation from Charles & Terry Price, Moultonborough, NH, for assistance he received after becoming lost while snowmobiling, to be utilized by the Inland Fisheries Division.

4e.) Commission accepted a \$75.00 donation from Kelly Smart, Belmont, NH, to be utilized by the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, Holderness, NH.

4f.) Commission accepted a \$25.00 donation from David Redfield, Marlborough, NH, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account.

4g.) Commission accepted a \$78.00 donation from the Squam Lakes Association, to be utilized for inland fisheries management.

4h.) Commission accepted a \$100.00 donation from Harold Wyman, Keene, NH, to be utilized to support hunting programs.

4i.) Commission accepted the donation of a Coleman 400 ATV, valued at approximately \$4,994.00, to be utilized by the Wildlife Division.

5.) Mark Ellingwood, Chief, Wildlife Division, came before the Commission seeking approval to expend \$6,400 from the Game Management Account, to fund a biological aide for 14 weeks (mid May – mid August), who will work under the supervision of the bear biologist, to prevent and mitigate nuisance bear conflicts in New Hampshire.

Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the above expenditure and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

6.) Kris Rines, Moose Project Leader, came before the Commission seeking approval of the final Moose Permit Allocation proposal for the 2017 moose season.

The Moose Permit Allocation proposal is to reduce permits this year from 71 to 51.

Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Phillipson had concern over having 0 permits in the Southwestern part of the State. He stated, “We aren’t under the line of cut off yet. I’d like to see us keep 1 permit for the Southwestern part of the State.”

Commissioner Phillipson moved to accept changes to the moose proposal as presented, keeping 1 permit in the Southwestern part of the State, Commissioner Morse seconded.

Kris responded, “We are at the cutoff in the Southwestern part of the State. We are not above or under the cut off line, we are at it.” Kris further explained that we, the department, after taking comments at 5 public meetings, agreed to these cut offs and the Commission voted in favor of them. Kris further stated, “I think we would be breaking the public’s trust to go against the prior decision made to uphold them.”

Commissioner Patch stated, “I agree with Commissioner Phillipson, however, I’m afraid of breaking the public’s trust.”

The motion was defeated with 4 in favor, 6 opposed.

Commissioner Carr moved to approve the final Moose Permit Allocation proposal for the 2017 moose season as presented and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote carried with 8 in favor and 2 opposed.

7.) Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator, reported that the department received a “Petition for Rulemaking” pursuant to Fis 214.01 relative to proposed amendments to Fis 303.06 (a), (b) and (c) relative to coyote. The proposal seeks to change the season for hunting from year round to September 1 – March 31, eliminate night hunting, eliminate the use of electronic calling devices, and require a hunter to obtain a permit prior to hunting coyote over bait.

Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Phillipson moved to deny the above request relative to proposed amendments to the coyote season and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

8.) Commissioner Patch moved to go forward with the rulemaking process to amend the rules for the taking of cod and haddock and Commissioner McGonagle seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, reviewed the monthly financial statement dated February 28, 2017, with the Commission.

2.) Mark Beauchesne, Advertising & Promotions Coordinator, and Larry Barker, Extension Field Specialist, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, both came before the Commission to discuss Barry Conservation Camp and potential future enhancement projects.

Mark reported that the Barry Conservation Camp Dining Hall renovation project reached

its financial need of \$45,000 (\$25,000 grant matched). Special thanks to the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH and all the supporters, including Hannah Verville, for her cookie fundraising donation. Mark reported that this addition will allow everyone to eat together, counselors, campers, instructors, and all staff.

He spoke to some drainage issues that need to be addressed at camp as well, one being directly in front of the dining hall door, where water tends to collect.

Mark spoke to the new covered archery range project as well. Mark stated that the materials for the new covered range would be approximately \$6,000. He reported that the Coos County Sportsmen's Club has raised \$3,000, leaving \$3,000 to be raised in order to complete the project.

Commissioner Philipson inquired as to how many Commissioners would be willing to go to Barry Conservation Camp and assist with the construction of the covered archery range. Most all Commissioners were willing to assist.

Mark reported that he would get the archery range supply list to Tanya, who in turn, will get it to the full Commission for review. He asked that the Commission get back to Tanya with an answer as to whether they would be contributing the additional \$3,000 needed to complete the project or whether they would be donating all the materials needed.

Larry spoke to the Commission's recent inquiry regarding the potential to erect another cabin at Barry Conservation Camp, thus, allowing for additional campers to attend.

He reported that the land that Barry Conservation Camp is on is owned by the White Mountain National Forest. He further reported that the current septic system is at capacity and to build an additional cabin would put it over capacity. He further reported that adding an additional cabin would require additional counselors, instructors, dining hall space & other related costs.

The Commission thanked Mark and Larry for the update.

3.) Scott Decker, Inland Fisheries Supervisor, presented the results of an angler opinion and attitude survey conducted in 2016 by Responsive Management. The results indicate that most anglers are satisfied with the management of our fisheries resources and that bass fishing is becoming more popular than trout fishing.

The Commission thanked Scott for the informative presentation.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioners; Commissioners McGonagle & Clews.

Commissioner McGonagle reported that the committee would be meeting on May 10, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., at F&G HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301, in the Director's conference room.

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 he was not able to attend the last meeting.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Clews reported that the committee met & discussed legislation.

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 committee did not meet. He reported that the Wildlife Heritage Foundation was the sponsor of Discover Wild NH Day on April 29, 2017, at F&G HQ.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Commissioners Hubert, Chair; Commissioners Baldwin, Phillipson and McGonagle. Commissioner Hubert 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: Commissioner Baldwin spoke to the Profile Lake Trail Project. He was concerned that the Fish & Game Commission was not made aware of this.

Director Normandeau reported that the Profile Lake Trail Project was being proposed by DRED (Department of Resources & Economic Development) and not the Fish & Game Department. He reported that the proposal was reviewed by the State Lands Management Team, who provided comments/concerns to DRED about the project.

After meeting with DRED on the project, the Fish & Game Department decided to offer “no conditions”, however, the following review language was provided to DRED: “The Fish & Game Department has some concerns that the proposed 470 footwalk way may have a negative impact on angling and aquatic habitat, particularly the littoral (shallow water) habitat of Profile Lake, which is a natural lake. The Department understands the desire to provide an additional recreational experience for visitors to the Old Man plaza, particularly those with mobility disabilities. We also understand the engineering challenges with making any sort of trail, particularly an ADA compliant trail, on the eastern shoreline because of the steep banking associated with I-93, which ends right at the shoreline. Further, the Department understands that an ADA compliant trail is not feasible on the west side of the lake. Given this, the already developed nature of the Old Man plaza area, coupled with the impacts to the lake due to the proximity to I-93, we’ve decided to offer no conditions. The Department’s concurrence with this project is not meant to set precedence for any similar project that may be proposed for a body of water in a more pristine setting.”

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that things did not progress well with the budget. He reported that it's now the Senate's responsibility to develop & pass a State budget.

He further reported that he was recently in Atlanta, Georgia, for an Association of Fish & Wildlife Association's Business Summit Meeting. He reported that there are more Pittman Robertson monies coming from firearm & ammunition sales to non-hunters than hunters. He further reported that archery sales are not increasing at this time.

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 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 2 Marine Hearings on the coast.

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:

At this time, 4:46 p.m., Commissioner Ryan moved to adjourn and Commissioner Greco seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

James Ryan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Ted Tichy, Chairman