

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

JUNE 12, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING

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

Commissioners Present: R. Phillipson, T. Baldwin, P. McInnis, D. Patch, R. Green, B. Carr, 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 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 introduced and welcomed Marc Lachance, newly appointed Belknap County Commissioner.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Stohl moved to approve the April 18, 2019 Commission Minutes and Commissioner Carr 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.-2j., as presented below, and Commissioner Hodgdon seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$1,569.00 from the Great Bay Stewards, to support the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

2b.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$10.00 from the Minor League Bass Masters, as they overpaid for 3 fishing tournaments and wished to donate the remainder.

2c.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Edwin & Jane Willett, Manchester, NH, for assistance provided to Randy Willette while hiking in the Pemigewasset Wilderness in Franconia, NH, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2d.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Tyler Hurlbert, West Hartford, CT, for assistance provided to himself and a friend when they got off trail in the Ammonoosuc Ravine, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2e.) The Commission accepted the following donations made to the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

Joanne Ouellette, Windham, NH -	\$ 35.00
Harold Wyman, Keene, NH -	\$100.00
Charles & Constance McDonald, Taunton, MA -	<u>\$100.00</u>
	Total: \$235.00

2f.) The Commission accepted the following donations in memory of Laurence “Larry” Bean, Sanbornton, NH, to be utilized by the Hunter Education Program:

Florence Atherton, Tilton, NH -	\$ 50.00
Elektrisola, Boscawen, NH -	<u>\$150.00</u>
	Total: \$200.00

2g.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$340.00 from Nelson & Barbara Fontain, Groveton, NH, in memory of Luke Fontain of Groveton, NH, to be utilized by the “Let’s Go Fishing Program.”

2h.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Charles Lockwood, Chestnut Hill, MA, in memory of John Lanier, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account.

2i.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$25.00 from Mark & Theresa Grover, Marlborough, NH, in memory of Wayne Palmer, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account.

2j.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$5,483.00 from a variety of donors, in memory of retired District Five Lieutenant, Scott F. LaCrosse, who passed away suddenly on April 2, 2019.

3.) Commissioner Patch moved to accept the donation of .48 acres of land off Bayview Drive, Newmarket, NH, from Edward and Eriko Antos, with a tax assessment value of \$179,400 and Commissioner Green seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Commissioner Green moved to initiate the rulemaking process for rules regarding the sale & use of bait in coastal and estuarine waters and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, reviewed 2 financial statements dated April 30, 2019 & May 31, 2019.

2.) Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator, advised the Commission of a recent coyote rule-making petition from the Voices of Wildlife, and described commission responsibilities relative to the petition. The petition requests that the Department establish rules requiring coyote hunters to submit an annual mandatory report, summarizing certain information regarding all coyotes taken while hunting.

Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Patch moved to direct Director Normandeau to obtain more information and provide input from the Wildlife Division, such as the cost, practicality, etc., per the petition submitted by the Voices of Wildlife, for review and consideration by the Commission at their upcoming August 14, 2019 Commission Meeting and Commissioner Hodgdon seconded. The motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 opposed. (P. McInnis)

Chris Schadler, coyote researcher, offered her time & data to assist in any way.

3.) John Magee, Fisheries Biologist, came before the Commission with an overview of a future action item, requesting to expend up to \$300,000 from the Fisheries Habitat Account to conserve 206 acres along the Ammonoosuc River in Bethlehem, NH.

Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Baldwin stated, "I am aware of the property and categorically it is one of the best investments the Habitat Fund could invest in." He felt it should not be voted on today, as he expressed concern that suggested SPNHF (Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests) may not be supportive of how the current F&G Commission is constructed.

A few Commissioners expressed parking concerns.

John Magee will bring this back before the Commission at the August 14, 2019 Commission Meeting, with updated information pertaining to the requested purchase.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

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

Chairman Carr reported that the Policy Committee did not meet this month.

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

Chairman Stohl reported that Paul Sanderson has kept the committee abreast of any new legislation. He reported that there was nothing for the Commission to take a position on at this time.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the committee met yesterday, June 11, 2019, and that it was basically a governance related meeting. He reported that the wetland rules were finalized.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Temple reported that the next committee meeting would take place on July 30, 2019, with the Squam Lakes Association.

HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE: Commissioner Patch, Chair; Commissioner Carr. Commissioner Patch reported that the committee did not meet. He reported that there were a few additions to the handbook and that there would be a new contact list distributed at the next Commission Meeting.

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

Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting. He reported that he would have a more detailed update for the next Commission Meeting.

WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION: Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the Wildlife Heritage Foundation met on June 5, 2019, at the Owl Brook Hunter Education Center, Holderness, NH, where they took a tour of the facility and discussed specific projects that the Foundation funded.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Luppi. This committee has been sunset. Chairman Phillipson inquired with Commissioner Lachance as to what committee he may wish to serve on. He asked him to think about serving on either the Policy or Legislative Committee and to get back to him at the August 14, 2019 Commission Meeting with his decision.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Carr, Chair: Commissioners Stohl & McInnis.

Commissioner Carr moved to nominate the following slate of Commission Officers and Commissioner Stohl seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Phillipson – Chairman
Commissioner Patch – Vice Chairman
Commissioner Green - Secretary/Treasurer

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Carr moved that the Fish & Game Commission purchase & present former Coos County Commissioner, Ted Tichy, with a Commission jacket & Resolution, in recognition of his 20 years of exceptional service on the Fish & Game Commission and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Stohl moved to cancel the July 10, 2019 Commission Meeting and Commissioner Patch seconded. The motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention. (T. Baldwin)

Chairman Phillipson announced that this was the last meeting for Commissioners Carr & Baldwin. He stated, “They have gone above & beyond to ensure that they represented their duties in the best light and supported their constituents and the Department. We thank you for your service and for representing Grafton & Strafford Counties.”

The Director’s report was heard out of sequence due to time a constraint in the Director’s schedule.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Director Normandeau reported that the Department owns a facility in Brentwood, NH, consisting of 35 acres with a small farmhouse on it. He reported that the Brentwood property is appraised at approximately \$575,000, with some interest expressed from the Town and Southeast Land Trust. He reported that his intention is to sell the Brentwood property and to use those funds to do the necessary work at the Great Bay Farm to bring it to jewel status. He reported that the Great Bay Farm consists of 105 acres, with a farmhouse and several other buildings that require a great deal of work. He reported that his intention is to put in a much improved access ramp at the Great Bay Farm.

He reported that the surplusing of the Brentwood property would be on the CORD agenda in July, with the intent to use that money as match, the next step will be to go before the Long Range Planning Committee at the Legislature, then will potentially require Governor & Council approval. He stated, "I encourage you to take a ride over to the Great Bay Farm if you get the chance."

In addition, Director Normandeau reported that he was approached by DNCR (Department of Natural & Cultural Resources) to assist them in discussions about Pisgah State Park, 520 Old Chesterfield Rd, Winchester, NH 03470. He reported that it appears the forestry management plan is back under the spotlight again, as some individuals are trying to prevent cutting there.

Commissioner Phillipson reported that he was initially on the steering committee for this. He reported that he'd like to stay on that committee, as he knows what the issues are. He stated, "The management plan seemed reasonable and well thought out."

Representative Catherine Harvey, of Chesterfield, NH, reported that the steering committee was initially established in 2011, and that the committee has asked to reconvene to review the plan and to make the necessary changes to keep Pisgah State Park as wild and pristine as it is. She reported that the park was 13,300 acres, the largest park in the State. She reported that there is a group of people asking for the management plan to be reviewed to address a variety of data points, such as the amount of logging that may be done, habitat goals, erosion issues, etc.

In closing she stated, "From what I understand, there is less being logged than what the plan allows." She reported that she would report back to the Commission with a status update once she hears from Commissioner Stewart of DNCR.

Chairman Phillipson thanked her.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER CARR: Commissioner Carr reported that he attended the 39th Annual Kids Fishing Day at The Farmington F&G Club, New Durham, NH. He thanked the Conservation Officers who attended and reported that the real star of the show was K-9 CORA. He reported that next year will be the 40th Annual Kids Fishing Day and inquired whether Colonel Jordan could send a few Conservation Officers to the event.

Colonel Jordan agreed to send a few Conservation Officers next year, as well.

Being Commissioner Carr's last meeting, he read aloud the following:

"The Department's mission statement reads in part: "As the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources, The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department works in partnership with the public to: conserve, manage and protect these resources and their habitats;

"It has been an honor for me to work alongside these commissioners, and past commissioners, to preserve this mandate, not only for the people of Strafford County, but all New Hampshire citizens. There are over 200 employees at the Fish & Game Department, some are in the public eye a lot, however, most and many are not. It has been a privilege for me to work with all the division's hard working people."

He stated, “Lastly, let me leave you with a slightly altered quote from a great sportsman, hunter, conservationist and President, Theodore Roosevelt:

“I want, as game protectors, men and women, of courage, resolution, and hardihood.”

COMMISSIONER BALDWIN: Commissioner Baldwin wished to thank the many people that have been his mentors, supporters, partners and conservationists for so many projects and ventures throughout his tenure on the Commission and the many years he has been associated with Fish & Game Department personnel, in the field, and in the office. He stated, “Thank you Mr. Chairman, Director Normandeau, Tanya, and all, for letting me be part of your continued efforts to conserve, manage, and protect resources and their habitats. I have been honored to be your Grafton County Commissioner.”

He further introduced Paul DeBow, who will be replacing Commissioner Baldwin, as Grafton County Commissioner, effective June 30, 2019, and stated, “Paul has a degree in Wildlife Management, USDA; Certified Wildlife Technician, among other qualifications.

COMMISSIONER TEMPLE: Commissioner Temple had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson inquired about adding the biennial hearing dates in the hunting digest, with a small paragraph defining what the hearing is actually for.

COMMISSIONER GREEN: Commissioner Green discussed a letter he received relative to a junior hunting license. In addition, he requested that Chris Schadler, coyote researcher, provide him with the coyote data they previously spoke about, as he never received it.

COMMISSIONER LACHANCE: Commissioner Lachance had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER HODGDON: Commissioner Hodgdon had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER LUPPI: Commissioner Luppi had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER PATCH: Commissioner Patch had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER MCINNIS: Commissioner McInnis reported that he attended a Marine Division Meeting relative to an application for aquaculture license received. He reported that it was specific to an area south of Isle of shoals that UNH would like to continue researching. He reported that the meeting was well attended by concerned fishermen, and that he would report back to the board with any updates.

COMMISSIONER STOHL: Commissioner Stohl expressed displeasure with the silver badges the Commission ordered, as he was expecting gold. He returned it to Tanya for future purchase by another Commissioner, if they so wished.

Colonel Jordan reported that silver was chosen to keep the cost of the badges down.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Representative Harvey, Chair, House Fish, Game & Marine Resources Committee, thanked Director Normandeau for scheduling several field trips for the committee to visit some of the Fish & Game Facilities around the State to see things first hand.

Julia Sinclair Snyder, Newmarket, NH, asked the Commission to please gather all information relative to the coyote petition and to not discard immediately due to costs. She also expressed displeasure that Commissioner Baldwin would not consider a potential worth-while project due to the fact that members of another interest group did not have the same beliefs as the Fish & Game Commission.

Julia Seeley, NH State Director, HSUS, was present at the meeting and introduced herself. She reported that she was from Manchester, NH, and was replacing Lindsay Hamrick, who was recently promoted. She stated, "I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you."

Jason Smith, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, reported that today staff stocked 48 remote ponds from a helicopter with 2 – 2 1/2 inch brook trout.

At this time, 3:09 p.m., Commissioner Luppi moved to adjourn and Commissioner Hodgdon seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Green, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman