

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

### OCTOBER 14, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: Pemigewasset Fish & Game Club, 295 Beede Road, Holderness, NH.

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

Commissioners absent/excused: C. Luppi, P. McInnis & F. Bird

Executive Director Mason – Present

Chairman Stohl called the meeting to order at 1:00p.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 Stohl announced that public comment would be taken for 3 consecutive days after the meeting, to be submitted to: [Tanya.haskell@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:Tanya.haskell@wildlife.nh.gov) or by mail to: NH Fish & Game Department, Attn: Tanya Haskell, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

Chairman Stohl welcomed the newest member of the Fish & Game Commission, John Caveney, representing Cheshire County.

He also introduced recently appointed, Scott Mason, Executive Director, NH Fish & Game Department. Chairman Stohl encouraged anyone who has not met Director Mason yet, to feel free to speak with him after the meeting.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1.) Commissioner Green moved to approve the August 12, 2020 Commission Minutes, as written, and Commissioner Patch seconded. The motion 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 Hodgdon moved to approve consent agenda items 2a.-2k., as presented, and Commissioner Temple seconded. The motion was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Joanne Holland, Cabot, AZ, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2b.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$200.00 from Linda Deremer, Elverson, PA, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2c.) The Commission accepted various size canine kennels from Representative L'Heureux & wife, Fran, of Merrimack, NH, valued at approximately \$1,000.

2d.) The Commission accepted the following donations totaling \$99.00 made to the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

Gail Rupp, New London, NH -	\$25.00
Simon Leeming, Canterbury, NH -	\$25.00
Benjamin & Linda Brown, Freedom, NH -	\$ 5.00
Lindsey Polhemus, Newfields, NH -	\$ 8.00
John Caveney, Spofford, NH -	<u>\$36.00</u>
Total:	\$99.00

2e.) The Commission accepted the following donations totaling \$450.00 in memory of Tracy A. Gerbert Sr., to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account:

Park & Go Markets, Inc., Bristol, NH -	\$250.00
Belletetes, Jaffrey, NH -	\$100.00
Daniel & Laurie Uhlman, Ashland, NH -	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total:	\$450.00

2f.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$25.00 from Noreen Duxbury, Merrimack, NH, in memory of Fernando Pinard, Litchfield, NH, who was an avid fishermen who enjoyed fly tying, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account.

2g.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Gary & Pam Krafft, Mattawan, MI, in memory of Nathan Hewes, to be deposited into the Small Gifts & Donations Account.

2h.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Carol Ramsey, Bristol, NH, in memory of Christopher Ramsey, avid outdoorsmen, who especially enjoyed ice-fishing.

2i.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Barbara Tarvainen, in memory of Earl Gaudet, to be utilized by the moose project.

2j.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$2,000 from Carolyn Marshall, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2k.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Catherine Crane, Campton, NH, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

3.) Jim Oehler, Habitat Program Supervisor, came before the Commission requesting approval to accept the donation of a pedestrian bridge from John Brown and Sons, Inc., and Supreme Industries, valued at \$2,400, for the purpose of providing public foot access to Cole Pond a remote on the Laramie Wildlife Management Area.

Jim reported that the Wildlife Division's Habitat Program, which is charged with stewardship of the Department's Wildlife Management Areas, coordinated the replacement of a dilapidated pedestrian bridge at the trail head to Cole Pond, located off Bog Road. Cole Pond is a popular remote trout pond and surrounding woodlands provide good hunting opportunities. The trail is approximately 1.5 miles in length and is maintained by the Cardigan Highlanders Volunteer Trail Crew. The Highlanders volunteered their time to construct bridge abutments prior to bridge replacement, built hand rails and constructed ramps to meet ADA requirements.

After discussion, Commissioner Green moved to accept the donation of a pedestrian bridge from John Brown and Sons, Inc., and Supreme Industries, for the purpose of providing foot access to Cole Pond, a remote trout pond located within the Laramie Wildlife Management Area and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Jim Oehler, Habitat Program Supervisor, returned before the Commission requesting authorization to add \$22,000 to the current FY'21 authorized budget of \$40,000, for exclusive use in the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Small Grants Program.

Commissioner Green moved to approve the addition of \$22,000 to the current FY'21 authorized budget of \$40,000 for exclusive use in the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Small Grants Program and Commissioner Hodgdon seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor, 1 abstention (M. Lachance).

5.) Commission discussion on the Draft Initial Proposal of amendments to Fis 806.05 Snowshoe Hare Live Capture Requirements.

Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator, reported that amendments/modifications were made to sections (g) and (j), as outlined below. The next step, if to move forward, would be to create an initial proposal to start the rulemaking process, which would most likely be virtually, then to JLCAR (Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules) to adopt said changes to the rule.

**Readopt with amendment Fis 806.05, eff. 7-25-18 (Doc# 12591) to read as follows:**

Fis 806.05 Snowshoe Hare Live-Capture Requirements.

(a) As part of the fish and game department's responsibility to recognize, preserve, and promote the state's hunting heritage, these rules will allow the continuance of a long-held tradition of hunting hare and rabbits with trained beagles by fostering responsible dog training and breeding and promoting interest in the hunting of snowshoe hares. The purpose of these rules is to allow the limited take of snowshoe hares in a manner that will not have an adverse effect on the population of snowshoe hares. These rules will regulate the taking of live snowshoe hare from the wild within New Hampshire and allow a limited number of hare to be held in captivity for propagation and training purposes.

(b) Applicants for a "Permit to Live-Capture Snowshoe Hare" shall provide the following on the form:

- (1) Name and home mailing address and telephone number;
- (2) Applicant's trapping license number;

- (3) Beagle club affiliation and the address of the beagle club;
- (4) A statement with the signature of the beagle club president authorizing the applicant to live-capture snowshoe hare on the club's behalf.
- (5) The number of a valid permit to propagate wildlife issued to the beagle club as specified in Fis 806.01 and Fis 806.04.

(c) The live-capture of snowshoe hares shall only be conducted by licensed trappers who have been designated by the club to live-capture hares on the club's behalf, and shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The live-capture of snowshoe hares shall only be done during the open season for taking hares as specified in Fis 301.10(a)(1);
- (2) Live-capture shall only be allowed on private land with written landowner permission.
- (3) Live-capture shall be done only by box-trap;
- (4) Traps shall be securely labeled with the name and contact information of the permittee;
- (5) Traps shall be equipped with a weather-proof top;
- (6) Each active trap shall be baited with enough apple, rabbit feed, or alfalfa to provide for the nourishment of a captured snowshoe hare for at least 24 hours;
- (7) Traps shall be checked at least once in every calendar day;
- (8) No more than 20 snowshoe hares per season may be live-captured by each qualifying beagle club with no more than 10 snowshoe hares live-captured per season from the combined area of wildlife management units H1, H2, I1, I2, J2, K, L, and M;
- (9) No live capture of snowshoe hare shall be allowed in those areas closed to the taking of cottontail rabbits as specified in Fis 301.10(c);
- (10) Snowshoe hares that die during live-capture efforts shall count as part of the 20 snowshoe hares allowed per year per club;
- (11) Snowshoe hares not kept for training or propagation purposes shall be immediately released at the site of capture; and
- (12) No more than 10 licensed trappers shall be designated per beagle club to live-capture snowshoe hare on that club's behalf during the term of the permit.

(d) No fees shall be charged to any beagle club by persons engaged in snowshoe live-capture. This shall not preclude reimbursement of expenses associated with the live-capture and care of snowshoe hares by club members on behalf of their respective clubs.

(e) Live-captured snowshoe hares shall remain on the capturing club's property and not be transferred elsewhere.

(f) Progeny of live-captured snowshoe hares may be transferred or exchanged with another permitted beagle club provided that no money shall be charged by either club to the other for the value of the animal.

(g) ~~Snowshoe hares kept either for this program or for propagation shall be held in compliance with Fis 804.09(b).~~ A permittee holding a snowshoe hare in captivity for propagation purposes shall:

(1) Hold the animal in accordance with the possession requirements of Fis 804;

(2) At least once each calendar year contact the law enforcement division to request a visit from a conservation officer in order to select and remove one or more animals for inspection by a veterinarian;

(3) The officer shall transport the selected animal to the veterinarian, to be examined for disease, general health and condition, with the cost of the inspection to be borne by the permittee; and

(4) The results of the inspection shall be reported to the department in accordance with Fis 806.05(j)(12) below.

(h) Snowshoe hares that escape from established pens on club property may be recaptured during the open season for taking snowshoe hare within 50 yards of their established pens and shall not count towards the season limit.

(i) Any snowshoe hares live-captured and held for release under this program shall be released on club property within 2 days of capture.

(j) Each club shall provide to the department an annual "Snowshoe Hare Live-capture Summary Report" to include:

(1) The name and address of the beagle club;

(2) The date of report;

(3) The name of the individuals who live-captured or attempted to live-capture snowshoe hares on behalf of the club;

(4) The total number of:

a. Traps set; and

b. Days trapping occurred;

(5) The number of snowshoe hares caught, by sex, by town, and by WMU;

(6) The number of snowshoe hares that died as a result of live-capture efforts, by cause of death;

(7) The number of snowshoe hares retained for training;

(8) The number of snowshoe hares retained for propagation;

(9) The number of non-target animals captured and released by species, WMU, and town;

(10) The number of non-target mortalities by species, town and WMU;

(11) The number of snowshoe hares propagated on club grounds through a breeding program during the preceding calendar year;

(12) The written report of a veterinarian regarding the general health and condition of animals held for training or propagation purposes; and

(13) (12) The name and signature of the person submitting the report, signed subject to the penalties for making unsworn false statements under RSA 641:3.

(k) Annual summary reports shall be submitted to the department by April 15th. No permits to live-capture in subsequent years shall be provided to clubs until the annual report from the last year a permit was held is received.

After brief discussion, Commissioner Green moved to put forward the above amendment into rulemaking and Commissioner Lachance seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

1.) Financial Statements dated August 31, 2020 and September 30, 2020 were mailed to the Commission. Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, stated that she would be happy to answer any questions if anyone had any. No questions were heard at this time.

2.) Henry Jones, Moose Project Leader, provided a very informative overview of Moose research findings in New Hampshire. Henry thanked the Commission for making the time for this presentation. (See attached for detailed presentation).

Henry reported that The New Hampshire Fish & Game Department partnered with the University of New Hampshire in 2002 to initiate a comprehensive research study, designed to assess the cause and mechanics of moose declines in New Hampshire. The study has documented a significant impact by winter ticks on NH's moose. This impact has significantly contributed to a decline in NH's moose population over the past 2 decades. He provided the definitions of a few moose terms for the Commission below:

#### Definition:

\*Calf: 0-1 year old (born mid-May)

\*Yearling: 1-2 years old

\*Adult: 2 years and older

\*Winter tick epizootic ("epizootic" hereafter): High infestations of winter ticks on moose throughout the region resulting in high mortality of calves in late winter and suppressed productivity.

\*Productivity: the number of calves born per yearling or adult cow moose.

He reported that winter ticks are limiting the population, as female moose must be of a certain weight in order become pregnant and reproduce. He reported that population size was

stable, however, declining due to increasing impact of winter ticks. He further reported that New Hampshire's climate is ideal for winter ticks.

The following are effects of tick infestation:

- \*Blood loss
- \*Protein deficiency
- \* Anemia
- \* Excessive grooming = hair loss and reduced feeding.

He further discussed the Current Management Approach:

1. Outreach
2. Conservative harvest while learning:
  - Moose abundance where tick impact is low?
  - Prepare for 2026-2035 Game Plan.

The Commission thanked Henry for the informative presentation and asked that he keep them updated on their research.

3.) Jim Oehler, came before the Commission and provided an overview of Leighton Forest Conservation Project (further action item). He described an opportunity for the Department to help permanently conserve 400 acres of property in Barrington, NH, that contains significant wildlife habitat resources and provides opportunities for significant wildlife-based recreation through an investment from the Wildlife Habitat Account.

Jim reported that the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) is working with multiple partners to conserve 400 acres of privately owned land in the Town of Barrington, NH, through a fee simple purchase. The parcel is located in between the 1,500 acre Stonehouse Forest purchased by SELT with an easement held by the NH Fish & Game Department and another 400-acre tract owned by the Town of Strafford. He reported that the Leighton are purchasing the property, who will put it on the market, if a conservation option (their preferred option) is not successful.

He reported that the property consists of well managed forest with stands of pine-oak-maple, pitch pine-oak, and hemlock, the latter of which hosts a deer wintering area. It has 52 acres of wetland, 1 mile of frontage on Stonehouse Brook, and 1,660 feet of frontage on Nippo Brook.

In addition, he reported that this property could provide Fish and Game Constituents excellent hunting opportunities for deer, bear, turkey, and waterfowl. He reported that SELT has agreed to advertise these opportunities through local sportsmen's clubs.

He reported that SELT is seeking funding from a variety of sources to support this \$1.2 million dollar project.

Much discussion took place relative to SELT currently not allow trapping on their properties, including the property in question as well. Dwayne Hyde, Land Conservation Director, SELT, was present in the audience and responded that there was intent to have serious discussion on including trapping. He reported that those discussions wouldn't take place until January 2021. He reported that he would keep Jim Oehler and the Commission updated.

Commissioners expressed much concern over the trapping restriction and voiced that they may not be able to support the project if that remains the same.

In closing, Jim reported that if the project is unsuccessful, it could be replaced with up to 130 residential house lots.

This item will come back before the Commission at the January, 2021, Commission Meeting, requesting to invest \$150,000 of Wildlife Habitat Account funds in the Leighton Forest Project.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Stohl thanked Jim for the presentation.

Kristina Snyder, Chester, NH, expressed concern and encouraged Dwayne Hyde, of SELT, to seriously think twice before allowing trapping. She stated that the land seems to have many recreational opportunities and much to offer, without allowing trapping.

4.) Corey Riley, Great Bay Discovery Center Coordinator, provided an overview of Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve & Glenn's Cove Wildlife Management Area. (See attached detailed presentation).

Corey invited the Commission to the Great Bay Discover Center and offered to host a future Commission Meeting and tour said properties.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**POLICY COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Luppi, Chair; Commissioners Temple, Lachance & Bird. Commissioner Luppi was absent, however, Commissioner Temple reported that the committee did not meet.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Luppi, Chair; Commissioners Bird & Lachance. Commissioner Luppi was absent, however, Tanya Haskell reported that she has received a few Commission Award Nominations to date. She reminded everyone of the December 31, 2020 deadline for submissions.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Green, Chair; Commissioners, Hodgdon, Patch & DeBow. Commissioner Green reported that the committee was monitoring a house keeping item.

At this time, Commissioner Green moved to allow/designate Paul Sanderson, Legal Coordinator, and/or Kevin Jordan, Colonel, Law Enforcement Division, to act on the Commission's behalf relative to legislative situations and/or when not possible to contact the Commission to obtain a position, Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**RIVERS COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon reported that there was no meeting.

**LAKES COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Temple reported that there was no meeting.

Commissioner Temple spoke of the Wild Goose Boat Access Site, and not wanting it to drop off the radar. He inquired whether it could be brought back before the Governor for continued discussion. He stated, "If it's not able to be a launch, then why not make it useable for other activities, such as car-top access, etc.?"

**HANDBOOK & ORIENTATION COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Patch, Chair; Commissioner Green & Caveney. Commissioner Patch reported that he received some good input from Commissioners and Division Chiefs relative to the Commission Handbook. He further reported that he hoped to have an updated handbook in the very near future. He thanked Heidi Holman, Nongame Supervisor, for her helpful insight & input in updating the handbook.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair; Commissioners Temple, Stohl & DeBow. Commissioner Hodgdon reported that the Strategic Planning Committee was being re-activated and would meet in the future to review committee structure, and ensure it's well aligned with the mission of the Department.

**WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOUNDATION:** Commissioner Hodgdon thanked Director Mason for recently meeting with a few board members. He reported that the Foundation supported funding \$48,000 worth of grant proposals for the Department.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Commissioner Green moved that the Commission present former Chairman, Robert Phillipson, with a Commissioners jacket and Fish & Game Resolution and Commissioner Hodgdon seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Chairman Stohl reported that he would like to create a new committee, called "Seacoast Committee." He reported that he would like Commissioner McInnis to serve on it and to provide a report every month, similar to the other committees. Commissioner Green moved to create a Seacoast Committee and Commissioner Patch seconded. Commissioner Hodgdon stated that he had no objection to the creation of a new committee, however, suggested possibly waiting until the review of all committees took place, prior to creating a new committee. Commissioner Patch agreed and withdrew his second to the motion, Commissioner Green withdrew the motion.

Further discussion will be had prior to implementing the Seacoast Committee.

Director Mason informed the Commission that a letter was sent to all Commissioners from a constituent regarding a Newborn Lifetime License eligibility concern. Director Mason reported that the individual's grandchild does qualify for the license. Director Mason reported that

essentially the license was not designed properly and will surely not generate profit. He reported that the department is not exactly sure how to proceed/resolve the issue and more discussion needs to be had. Director Mason inquired whether a Commissioner would be interested and willing to meet with staff to discuss the issue further. Chairman Stohl thought that was a good idea and asked that Director Mason contact him with the details of the meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

**COMMISSIONER BIRD:** Absent from meeting.

**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:** Commissioner Hodgdon thanked Commissioner Temple for scheduling a visit to the Claremont Beagle Club for him.

**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 Mason reported that during his interview for the position, it was expressed that the Commission would like to be more informed and receive more information/updates from the department. He reported that Commissioners are now getting copies of daily media logs, press releases, news clips and any "buzz issues" that may impact the department, like mink the bear being dead, etc., He reported that some Commissioners may be getting duplicates and that he would work with Nicola and Tanya to address that.

He reported that he has been learning the job, meeting employees, and visiting department facilities. He reported that he has visited a few regional offices, fish hatcheries and has toured a few boat launches. He further reported that he has not met all of the Public Affairs Division staff as of yet, as some are over in building #2, however, reported that he will certainly get over there to meet everyone in the very near future.

Director Mason reported that upon his arrival to the department, he has worked very closely with Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Business Division, along with the other Senior Staff members, to create & submit a budget. He stated, "It was a team effort by all and I thank everyone for their efforts."

He further reported that he has met with a few outside groups, such as the Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Yankee Fishermen's Coop., The Wildlife Federation, The Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH, Trout Unlimited, The Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and the ATV community, to name a few.

He reported that he has visited Downing's Landing, Alton, NH, where Phase II of the boat access project will shortly be underway. Director Mason stated, "It's a nice piece of property. Once completed, would be a great place to visit."

He reported that the department's nongame staff were currently working on developing changes to the Alteration of Terrain Permit System (AOT)'s, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Services. He reported that the Fish & Game Department plays a big role in permit issues dealing with endangered species.

Director Mason announced that there was a hiring freeze, however, the department submitted waivers and received approval to fill the following positions:

- \*Supervisor, Law Enforcement Division
- \*Supervisor, Marine Division
- \*Program Assistant, Federal Aid Program

Director Mason reported that Mark Beauchesne, Outreach Coordinator, within the Public Affairs Division, has had the Landowner Relations Coordinator responsibilities merged into his current position. In addition, he reported that Mark would also act as the liaison between the department and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH.

He reported that the department has created a "COVID License Bubble Retention Committee", to review opportunities and methods to reach out & maintain license holders. He reported that the department has seen record numbers in license sales during this pandemic. The committee has met a few times and will meet again in the near future to discuss & implement outreach strategies.

In closing, he reported that the department saw its first snowmobile accident of the year in Loudon, NH, this past week.

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Douglas Gralenski, Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Club, congratulated Director Mason and stated, "You have our full support."

The following written comments were received by e-mail:

#### **\*Kristina Snyder Chester, NH**

A presentation was given concerning Leighton Forest Conservation Project and a financial request for the Department to assist in the purchase to conserve this land. During the presentation it was mentioned that SouthEast Land Trust (SELT) does not currently allow trapping on the easements they hold, however hunting and fishing would be permitted on this parcel.

Some Commissioners balked that there would not be trapping allowed and it was intimated that would influence their decision to approve funding of this project. That would be extremely short sighted and remiss on the primary goal of the N.H. Fish & Game Department.

The Southeastern part of the state is under heavy development pressure as it is and that pressure is expected to increase. During the presentation it was shown that this parcel could end up on the open market and be developed. That would be disastrous for wildlife and the hunting community. There are protected areas near this parcel and potential for more, this purchase would create a corridor of sorts for wildlife diversity and ensuring their continued presence.

In the future more private owners may be posting their land against hunting and hunters have already been distraught in SE New Hampshire because they are losing areas to hunt. This purchase would ensure another place for them to go. By also stopping development, there will be increased protection of the wetlands on this parcel which impacts clean water in an increasingly developed region. In addition, several species of protected wildlife will be given an advantage, such as the Blandings Turtles mentioned that are found there and a dwindling songbird and pollinator population.

Thousands of men, women, and children hunt. There are only a couple hundred trappers that really utilize that practice and there are already places that they go to trap. Even during the presentation a new area for trapping was mentioned as being available during discussion. Most, if not all trappers hunt and fish as well. They can still benefit from this purchase. If it is developed it is a loss for all involved.

In closing, I hope that this purchase is approved so that future generations to come have wild and natural places to enjoy and where wildlife can thrive. Policies can change but once a valuable natural place and habitat is developed, it is gone forever.

Thank You, Kristina Snyder Chester, NH

**\*NH Animal Rights League, Inc**

Wildlife Grants Available: Through our “Living with Beavers” grant program, the New Hampshire Animal Rights League offers matching grants of up to \$750 toward the cost of installing beaver pipes and similar devices.

The NH Fish & Game website includes information about the beneficial role of beavers in the ecosystem. Readers interested in pursuing co-existence strategies would benefit from knowing that grants are available to offset the cost of these more permanent solutions. We ask the Department to help make our grant program known to landowners and wildlife control operators.

As the public becomes increasingly aware of the importance of beavers — including their role in helping to mitigate the effects of drought — we are seeing more wildlife control operators adding flow device installation to their list of services. Our grant program helps make these projects more affordable, benefitting both property owners and WCOs.

Grant applications can be submitted on our web site at [nhanimalrights.org/grants-for-living-with-beavers](http://nhanimalrights.org/grants-for-living-with-beavers)

Thank you for sharing this information.

James Glover, President  
NH Animal Rights League, Inc.  
PO Box 4211  
Concord, NH 03302-4211  
[nhanimalrights.org](http://nhanimalrights.org)

Chairman Stohl thanked Jerry Thibodeau and the Pemigewasset Fish & Game Club for their hospitality and hosting the meeting. He asked audience members and Commissioners to please adhere to the 25mph. speed limit when departing the premises.

Commissioner Green moved to cancel the November 11, 2020 Commission Meeting and Commissioner Patch seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

At this time, 3:55 p.m., Commissioner Patch moved to adjourn and Commissioner Green seconded. The motion was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Green, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Stohl, Chairman