

**NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT**

**JANUARY 11, 2022 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

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

Commissioners Present: B. Temple, P. DeBow, M. Hodgson, E. Stohl, S. Price, J. Caveney & C. Hodgdon, P. McInnis, A.J. DeRosa & R. Green.

Commissioners absent/excused: M. Lachance

Executive Director Mason – Present

Chairman Stohl called the meeting to order at 1:00 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.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Commissioner Hodgson moved to approve the December 14, 2021 Commission Minutes, with the following amendment, and Commissioner Green seconded. The motion carried with 9 in favor, 1 abstention (B. Temple).

**AMENDMENT**

Page 3 of December 14, 2021 Commission Minutes, third paragraph should read:

Commissioner Green moved to oppose **HB-1230-FN**, as written, relative to permitting online presentation of deer for registration, and adding the language, “with consent of the Commission”, and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2.) Consent Agenda - The following items were grouped together and 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 Green moved to approve consent agenda items 2a.-2c., as presented below, and Commissioner Temple seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) The Commission accepted the following donations made to the Small Gifts & Donations Account totaling \$875.00.

- Fidelity Charitable - \$300.00
- William & Reeves, LLC., Hollis, NH - \$250.00
- Susan Fox, Plymouth, CA - \$200.00
- John & Lana Rautenberg, Novelty, OH - \$ 50.00
- Gail Rupp, New London, NH - \$ 38.00

- Nancy Frankel, Bedford, NH - \$ 37.00
- Total: \$875.00

2b.) The Commission accepted the following donations made to the Search & Rescue Account totaling \$2,213.00.

- Hannah Verville - \$538.00
  - John Sullivan - \$500.00
  - David Levinson - \$500.00
  - David Mann - \$500.00
  - Carla Rautenberg - \$100.00
  - Dean & Dawna Pidgeon - \$ 50.00
  - Mount Washington Omni Hotels & Resorts - \$ 25.00
- Total: \$2,213.00

2c.) The Commission accepted a donation in the amount of \$100.00 from Frank & Lorraine Dubisz, Manchester, NH, to be utilized by the “Let’s Go Fishing Program”.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 1.) There was no discussion on the monthly financial statement.
- 3.) Laura Ryder, Aquatic Resources Education & Hunter Education Supervisor, came before the Commission and provided an overview of the education programs within the Public Affairs Division. (See attached presentation).

Commissioner Price reported that Commissioner DeRosa was kind enough to donate a CZ 22 Long Rifle and an annual subscription to Project Upland Magazine, to be used as raffle prizes for the Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program.

**COMMITTEE STRUCTURE:**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Public policy development & recommendations, as well as Commission advocacy before legislature.

Commissioner Green, Chair; Commissioners: DeBow, Price & Hodgson  
Staff members: Kevin Jordan

Chairman Green reported that the Legislative Committee met on January 3, 2022 at F&G HQ & discussed the following legislation:

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1002, relative to establishing a committee to study the feasibility of personal use of state-owned vehicles and Commission Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to support HB-1005, relative to the creation of a NH low-grade timber and wood emerging market commission and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to support HB-1025-FN, relative to impeding, provoking, or harassing law enforcement officers and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1031, relative to prohibiting law enforcement from encrypting public frequencies and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1066, relative to establishing a commission to investigate and analyze the environmental, human and animal health impacts relating to cyanobacteria blooms in NH water bodies and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1073, relative to repealing the right-to-know exemption for attorney-client work product and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1101, relative to a forfeiture of personal property and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1123, relative to directing the department of administrative services in collaboration with the department of energy and the department of transportation to support the increased use of biofuels and biodiesel for state procurement needs and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1167, relative to establishing a maximum contaminant level for perfluorinated chemicals in surface water and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1175, relative to recording interactions with public officials and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1195, as written, relative to public comment periods at public meetings and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1217-FN, relative to agency reporting of state-owned property and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1227, relative to the definition of wetland and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1395, relative to administrative rulemaking authority and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1407-FN, relative to including the promotion of affordable housing under the land & community heritage investment program and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1440, relative to surface water quality standards for perfluorinated chemicals and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1451-FN, relative to the recovery of submerged logs and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1483, relative to the use of physical force by a law enforcement officer and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1510, relative to establishing a committee to study the hiring processes used by state agencies and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1517-FN, as written, relative to creating a pollinator solar scoreboard and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to support HB-1528, with amendment, relative to establishing a public boat access donation program for operators of non-motorized boats and requiring the fish and game department to prepare a report relating to such program and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1532, relative to permitting a dam to be constructed on Big Pea Porridge Pond and Commissioner DeBow seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1547-FN, relative to setting maximum contaminant levels for perflurochemicals in the soil and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1554-FN, as written, relative to online payment of fees and fines relating to the operation of off highway recreational vehicles and snowmobiles and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1571-FN, as written, relative to increasing fines for littering and directing revenues to the fish and game department and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to support HB-1579, relative to landowner liability on land authorized for outdoor recreational activities and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1581, relative to the use of open source software by state agencies and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1600, relative to the use of body cameras by law enforcement during an interview or interrogation and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1620, relative to identifying part of the Merrimack River as a protected river and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose HB-1631-FN, relative to hunting and fishing licenses for disabled persons and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor HB-1636, relative to prohibitions on carrying a loaded firearm on an OHRV or snowmobile and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to support SB-260, relative to search & rescue teams activated by fish and game and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor SB-226-FN, relative to establishing a recruitment and retention program for state employment and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose SB-266, relative to the limitations on taking another person's lobster or crab trap or pot and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to oppose SB-267-FN-A, as written, relative to establishing the upland invasive species program, program fund, and program coordinator in the department of agriculture, markets, and food and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor SB-301-FN-L, relative to the procedure for violations under the right to know law and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to monitor SB-322, relative to remote meetings under the right-to-know law and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to support SB-342, relative to the minutes of nonpublic sessions under the right-to-know law and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Commissioner Green moved to support SB-344, relative to the quorum requirements under the right-to-know law of meetings open to the public and Commissioner Hodgson seconded.

After much discussion, Commissioner Green withdrew his motion and Commission Hodgson withdrew her second to the motion.

At this time, Commissioner Caveney moved to oppose SB-344, relative to the quorum requirements under the right-to-know law of meetings open to the public and Commissioner DeRosa seconded. The motion carried with 6 in favor, 3 opposed (C. Hodgdon, M. Hodgson & R. Green). Commissioner Price stated, "I feel it is important to maintain a physical meeting structure".

Commissioner Green moved to oppose CACR17, relating to ballot measures. Providing that upon petition by voters, a question may be placed on the ballot of a statewide election and Commissioner Hodgson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** Commission professional development, education & policy recommendations related to Commission conduct & activities.

Commissioner Caveney, Chair; Commissioners: Green & Temple.  
Staff member: Cheri Patterson

Nothing to report.

**SUSTAINABILITY & STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Agency funding, development & oversight of strategic plan.

Commissioner Hodgdon, Chair; Commissioners: Caveney, Hodgson & DeRosa.  
Staff member: Scott Mason

Chairman Hodgdon reported that the committee met the morning of the January 11, 2022 Commission Meeting and discussed a work plan for 2023. He reported that the focus was on how the committee wants to approach the adoption of a new strategic plan. Discussion focused on the process, framework & timeline. In closing, Commissioner Hodgdon reported that he would be bringing an outline before the full Commission at the February 8, 2022 Commission Meeting.

**RESOURCES & INFRASTRUCTURE:** Policy recommendations related to agency infrastructure; including facilities, public access, habitat & wildlife.

Commissioner Temple, Chair; Commissioners: McInnis, Lachance & Caveney.  
Staff member: Dianne Timmins

Chairman Temple reported that the committee has not met, however, would be scheduling a meeting in the near future to visit the Powder Mill Fish Hatchery in New Durham, NH. He reported that he & Commissioner Caveney did recently visit the hatchery; however, the plan going forward is for the full committee to tour it together, and then possibly tour the Twin Mountain Hatchery next.

Commissioner Caveney reported that Sergeant Lucas invited him to tour the Armory in Berlin, NH. He reported that the National Guard was no longer using the armory; therefore, the Department obtained the surplus property & are now storing equipment & housing other items there, as well. He reported that the building has tremendous potential, however, is need of new windows.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION:** Engagement, partnership, awards, public recognition & education strategies for the public & interest groups.

Commissioner DeBow, Chair; Commissioners: Hodgdon, Price & DeRosa.  
Staff members: Dianne Timmins, Kevin Jordan & Cheri Patterson

Chairman DeBow reported that the committee has not met, however, would be meeting in the near future to discuss nominations for the Commission Awards of Excellence.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Stohl reported that the Department held 2 Biennial Hearings in the month of December, as follows:

- **December 28, 2021 – F&G HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH – 6:30 p.m.**
- **December 29, 2021 – Reg. 1 F&G Office, 629B Main Street, Lancaster, NH – 6:30 p.m.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Commissioner Temple inquired as to what the protocol was for recognizing former Commissioners. He reported that he felt some sort of recognition was appropriate for everyone that serves on the Commission.

Commissioner Green responded that he was looking into purchasing a F&G Commission jacket for former Commissioner Phillipson of Cheshire County, and was waiting for a resolution to be done to present with the jacket.

Tanya Haskell, Administrative Assistant, reported that she would forward samples of resolutions done for past Commissioners to Chairman DeBow for use in creating future resolutions, within the Public Engagement & Education Committee.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:** Commissioners will report on their recent activities as it relates to Fish & Game Commission duties and responsibilities. This is an informational item only.

Commissioner Hodgson reported that she would like the Wildlife Division to provide a presentation before the Commission regarding the history of furbearer management in New Hampshire in the near future.

Commissioner Hodgson moved that the Wildlife Division provide a presentation on the history of furbearer management in NH before the Commission at an upcoming Commission Meeting and Commissioner DeRosa seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** The Director will report on recent department activities. This is an information item only.

Director Mason reported on the following:

- The AOT (Alteration of Terrain) rules recently passed JLCAR (Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules).
- He reported that Carol Henderson, Environmental Review Coordinator, recently retired after a long tenure with the Department.
- The Department held 2 Biennial Hearings in December, 2021, as follows:
  - **December 28, 2021 – F&G HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH – 6:30 p.m.**
  - **December 29, 2021 – Reg. 1 F&G Office, 629B Main St., Lancaster, NH – 6:30 p.m.**

Director Mason thanked the Fish & Game Commissioners for attending the Biennial Hearings.

- He reported that the Legal Coordinator position was still vacant.
- He reported that there would be 27 bill hearings the week of the Commission Meeting and thanked Colonel Jordan for his assistance in tracking legislation.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Kristina Snyder, Chester, NH, reported that some individuals who submitted Biennial Hearing comments to the [comments@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:comments@wildlife.nh.gov) email had their comments rejected and inquired as whether there was an alternative method or extended date to submit comments due to that glitch.

Tanya Haskell responded that due to the computer glitch, the comment period has been extended to Friday, January 14, 2022. All comments submitted via mail must be postmarked on or before January 14, 2022. All comments submitted via email should be sent to [comments@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:comments@wildlife.nh.gov) or [Tanya.haskell@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:Tanya.haskell@wildlife.nh.gov), on or before January 14, 2022, as well.

At 3:43 p.m., Commissioner Hodgdon moved to adjourn and Commissioner Temple seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

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Eric Stohl, Chairman  
NH Fish & Game Commission