

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN

<http://www.nh.gov/csm>
Official Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2008 1:00-3:30 PM
Legislative Office Building Room 206, Concord, NH

These minutes were taken by Larry Colby.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15

Opening and Introduction of the Commissioners – **Joe Mastromarino, Larry Colby, Scott Meyer and Cam Sinclair were in attendance. Commissioners Scott Garman, Mike Geanoulis, and David Lauren were absent. Joe welcomed Cam to his first meeting. Larry volunteered to take minutes in Scott Garman’s absence if he could interrupt at will in order to be accurate. Joe asked if there were items to be added to the printed agenda and the following were inserted for discussion at the end of the regular agenda:**

- 1. American Humane: Call for Papers-Fatherhood and Child Welfare.**
- 2. Processing Commission expenditure for support of the NE Fathering Conference for \$500 dollars**

Secretary's Report

- a. **Approval of September Minutes – Minutes were approved as written on a motion from Larry and a 2nd from Scott Meyer**
- b. **Web Site Update – Members talked about the listing of their names and email addresses on the site. The group agreed that members of the general public who contact individual Commissioners or the group of Commissioners with a question can reasonably expect a reply. Commissioner Meyer asked if we should consider guidelines for such replies. Larry suggested that any such guidelines, if agreed to, should automatically contain language that says. ‘I do not speak for the group but...’ and ‘I will bring up your concerns/issues at the next meeting.’**

Treasurer's Report - 10 min – **Larry provided a current balance of \$2,482.40 that he obtained from Barry Bodell, NH Administrative Services in Commissioner Lauren’s absence.**

November & December Meeting Dates – **Commissioner Mastromarino reminded members of the November and December meeting dates and locations: Friday November 21, 1 – 3:30, Upham-Walker House at 18 Park Street and Friday December 19, 1 – 3:30, NH State Library, both in Concord**

Public Input I - **None**

Expired Commission Seat –**Scott Meyer reported meeting with Ray Burton, NH Executive Council who suggested that members of state commissions maintain full membership rights until the expired seat is filled. Scott asked whether we should encourage qualified people to apply for seats, and/or propose increasing the number of seats on the Commission. He also wondered if the question should be in the next biennial report. Ray Burton also suggested**

that an examination of the original legislation may be warranted. He also reported on his conversation with Kathy Goode, Governor's Office about expired seats and membership. He requested that 'membership' be added as an agenda item for the November meeting

Email Inquiry Reply Policy – (Above)

Commission Posters - Larry admitted that he has had no luck in tracking the presenters of the poster sheet from a WS at last year's New England Fathering Conference. Members agreed that positive images of men as parents was a worthwhile endeavor and well within the scope of the mission of the NHCSM. Members discussed how such images can be gathered/created/disseminated. Joe asked that this item be added to the November agenda

Commission Internship – Members talked about the desirability of an NHCSM intern to do some of the groundwork on different Commission goals such as the posters discussed earlier. They agreed that an informal internship position that included a space to work on issues/projects and direction from the Commission could work. Scott Meyer volunteered to check with individuals at PSU (Plymouth State University) to see if this undertaking might fit into the coursework of a PSU class

Letter to the NH Attorney General – Joe drafted a letter to Kelly Ayotte, NH Attorney General. Commission members offered suggestions about focusing the message and Joe will create a 2nd draft for consideration at the November meeting. The issue raised is about the state interest in promoting not hindering positive, regular contact between fathers and their children

Child Support and NH Child Costs Study -10 min – Commission members discussed Jeffrey Oigny's letter to US Department of Justice's Attorney's for New Hampshire, Robert Kinsella and Hugh Galligan, Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families. Larry asked what Hugh Galligan's connection to the issue was and commented that Galligan has been a long-time supporter of father involvement with early childhood education. Jeff has requested a letter from the Commission supporting the argument that Federal funds be withheld from NH until certain child support statutes are enforced by the state. Commissioners tabled this issue until the November meeting and Commissioner Colby volunteered to draft an acknowledgement to Mr. Oigny's request.

Domestic Violence – NH Study – Members discussed an appearance by Grace Mattern, Director of the NH Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV). Members agreed that an appearance is still desired and that her primary topic would be the criteria by which organizations are accepted or rejected for inclusion on NHCADSV. A secondary and important topic is a briefing on the results of a survey on NH domestic violence. Commissioner Meyer suggested an appearance could also be a chance for positive dialogue between the Commission and Coalition as both seek to reduce incidents of domestic violence in the state

Other Agenda Items Brought Forward at Start of Meeting:

1. American Humane: Call for Papers-Fatherhood and Child Welfare – **Commissioner Colby distributed copies of the American Humane Association’s *Protecting Children Journal* call for papers for an issue dedicated to fatherhood and child welfare. He suggested individual members and members of the general public with an interest in fathering issues may be encouraged to submit.**
2. Processing Commission expenditure for support of the NE Fathering Conference for \$500 dollars - **Commissioner Colby asked how to follow-up (i.e. how to get the money) approved last for Commission support of the 10th annual New England fathering conference. He was advised to contact Treasurer David Lauren and Barry Bodell, NH Administrative Services about the disbursement**

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Colby