

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN  
<http://www.nh.gov/csm>  
Official Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2008 1:00-3:30 PM  
Upham-Walker House, Concord, NH

Members Present: Joe Mastromarino, Scott Garman, Mike Geanoulis, David Lauren, Scott Meyer, Cam Sinclair. Members Absent: Larry Colby. Also Present: David Bickford.

The meeting opened with Commissioner introductions.

Joe Mastromarino requested that sponsorship of the New England Fathering Conference be added to the agenda, without any objections.

Secretary's Report:

Scott Garman distributed copies of the October 2008 meeting minutes, drafted by Larry Colby. Scott Garman requested that Scott Meyer's last name be included in the minutes where he is referenced to avoid confusion. Mike Geanoulis requested a wording change to clarify a comment made by Ray Burton.

David Lauren stated for the record that it is his belief that the primary reason Grace Mattern is being invited to a Commission meeting is to discuss their recent NH study on domestic violence against men, and secondarily to discuss the criteria by which organizations are accepted for inclusion in the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Mike Geanoulis disagreed **stating that the primary reason was to talk about organizations being accepted or rejected.**

Cam Sinclair motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Scott Meyer seconded, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0, with Scott Garman, Mike Geanoulis, and David Lauren abstaining.

Web Site Update:

Scott Garman reported that the Commission's web site has been updated with the latest approved meeting minutes and meeting announcement.

Treasurer's Report:

David Lauren reported that he called Barry Bodell's office recently but did not receive a return call. To his knowledge, no additions or withdrawals were made to the Commission's treasury during the past month.

Task Force on Work and Family:

Mike Geanoulis reported that the Task Force is finishing their final report and bringing forward legislation to renew the study group. Mike expressed concerns that his efforts to raise the visibility of father/child connection problems were ineffective and would like to relinquish his role as CSM representative to another member of the Commission.

Expired Commission Seat:

Mike Geanoulis expressed concerns that the issue of an expired seat on the Commission, now existing for over one year, is not being taken seriously. In light of this, he submitted the following motion regarding expired Commission seats:

Whereas, the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Men is a legal entity of the State and has legal obligations to perform its duties,

Whereas, a procedure exists by which members of the public are appointed to this Commission,

Whereas, a procedure exists by which the terms of Commission members are renewed through a nomination by the Governor and majority vote of the Executive Council,

Whereas, this Commission has a seat which has sat expired and un-renewed for more than a full calendar year,

Whereas, said expired seat is operating outside the law,

Whereas, RSA-19-I (CSM) is not specific about expired seats,

Whereas, this Commission has repeatedly requested that said seat be addressed by the Governor's Office,

Whereas, this commission has latitude to make its own rules within reasonable requirements of the law,

This Commission therefore enacts a rule that members sitting in an expired seat for more than three months shall no longer have legal standing within the Commission and shall not vote on motions.

Said enactment shall be effective 1 December 2008.

Scott Garman seconded, but the motion was tabled at the request of Mike Geanoulis when David Lauren stated that he expected to be reappointed by the Governor before the next meeting, making this issue moot.

Commission Posters / Internship:

Scott Meyer reported that he had been in touch with a professor in the Plymouth State Communications Department, and discussed the possibility of a student project in assisting the Commission and helping to promote the role of men as caregivers and fathers.

David Lauren suggested that a poster design contest would be another possible way of involving students without the potential liabilities of having a full time student intern. Scott Meyer agreed that an internship project does not seem viable without dedicated space and starting small with a poster project/contest would be something good to build upon. David Lauren offered to find out more from the Attorney General's office about the possible liabilities the Commission could incur with an internship.

Letter to the Attorney General:

Joe Mastromarino presented a draft letter to the Attorney General's office regarding the enforcement of parental rights and visitation. After some discussion Joe agreed to further rework the letter and present a new draft to the Commission at a later date.

A discussion also occurred regarding the non-compliance of New Hampshire with federal child support study guidelines. Mike Geanoulis wished to draft a new letter from the Commission to raise the profile of this issue. David Lauren expressed opposition to sending any letter that could result in the loss of federal funds to NH.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Garman