

**NEW HAMPSHIRE PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Annual Committee Meeting
(Meeting called in accordance with RSA 160-C: 13)
September 23, 2019 – 1:30 PM
NH Fire Academy – Auditorium

Annual Meeting Minutes:

- 1) Call meeting to order / committee introductions:

- Meeting called to order by Rep. Welch – Committee Chair at 1:36 PM.

- 2) Quorum call:

NH House of Representatives	Rep. David Welch, Chair	
NH Senate	Senator Harold French	 Absent
Fireworks Retailers	Mrs. Sarah Bergeron	
	Vacant	
Consumer	Mr. Shawn Allison	
NH State Police	Sgt. Michael McQuade	
NH State Fire Marshal's Office	State Fire Marshal Paul J. Parisi	

- One position remains open / vacant on the committee for a licensed retailer. No applications have been received by interested parties at the Governor's Office as of the time of this meeting.*

- 3) Approval of meeting minutes:

- Minutes for the 2018 annual meeting were not available at the time of the meeting. Rep. Welch dispensed with the reading of the previous meeting minutes.

- 4) Election of Committee Chairperson:

- Rep. Welch opened the annual election for a new Chairperson.*
- Nomination by Sarah Bergeron, second by Sgt. McQuade for Rep. Welch to continue as the Chairperson.*
- No other nominations were made.*
- Unanimous vote of the committee for Rep. Welch to continue as the Chairperson.*

5) Emergency Suspension / Removal action of Permissible Fireworks:

- *No emergency suspensions or removals have occurred since the last annual meeting.*

6) Review of CPSC rules and standards governing consumer fireworks:

- *No changes have been made to the CPSC rules that would impact the status of NH's consumer fireworks RSA's.*

7) Public comment:

- *Rep. Welch allowed questions and concerns from the retailers / public in attendance.*
- *Mr. Steve Carbone, owner of Atomic Fireworks and Ms. Christina Katsikas, owner of Hooksett Fireworks requested to discuss the verification process for rocket launcher tubes specified in RSA 160-C: 12-a.*
- *Both Mr. Carbone and Ms. Katsikas felt that a launch tube should either be provided to or be purchased by the customer if they do not have one. Both believed that was the intent of the RSA requirement to ensure safety.*
- *Ms. Katsikas felt that stores should not be allowed to use a written waiver or acknowledgment form in lieu of purchasing a launch tube.*
- *Retailers in attendance stated that some have added the price of a launch tube into the overall cost of a rocket purchase; some make each customer buy a launch tube with every purchase, and some stores give a launch tube to the customer with each rocket purchase.*
- *This created discussion amongst the committee members if this would require an RSA or administrative rule change.*
- *At the request of the retailers in attendance, the committee requested that the Fire Marshal's Office send out a written notice to define "verify" to mean the physical possession of a launch tube by a customer. This new interpretation would require the customer to physically have the appropriate launch tube with them at the time of purchasing rockets at a retail store. Otherwise the store will need to sell or provide the customer with a launch tube with a rocket purchase.*
- *Mike Dapkus, owner of Stateline Fireworks spoke and thanked Investigator Christopher Wyman of the NH State Fire Marshal's Office for the education and inspections he conducts with the licensees. Mr. Dapkus felt that his actions over the years lead to the successful outcome of the fire he experienced at his store in 2018.*
- *In reference to the Stateline Fireworks store fire, Mr. Carbone asked if the video of the store fire would ever be released and felt that it would be a benefit for those in the retail industry to see it.*

- *Rep. Welch allowed Inv. Wyman to conduct an overview of the Stateline Fireworks store fire for the committee and those in attendance.*
- *Inv. Wyman showed the video from the security cameras inside of the Stateline Fireworks store at the time of the fire.*
- *Inv. Wyman stated that the sales floor area of Stateline Fireworks was approximately 3,300 sq. ft. and that the tenability of that space was lost in approximately 47 seconds.*
- *Inv. Wyman stated that the extra hazard fire sprinkler system was able to contain the fire, and that once the system was supplemented by the fire department, the fire was extinguished.*
- *Inv. Wyman stated that 45 sprinkler heads went off in the store and that the suppression effort used approximately 131,000 gallons of water.*
- *Mr. Dapkus stated that he recently returned from the National Fireworks Association conference and during that event they collectively determined that no other fireworks store in the country has survived a fire of this magnitude to their collective knowledge.*
- *Mr. Dapkus stated that the fireworks industry at the national level would like for Inv. Wyman to conduct a presentation about this case. Mr. Dapkus felt it would be a tremendous benefit to the industry.*
- *Mr. Dapkus stated that he was able to re-open his store in 5 months following the fire.*

7) Content of committee report due December 1, 2019.

8) Adjournment:

- *Motion by Sarah Bergeron, second by Sgt. McQuade to adjourn the annual meeting. Vote called by Rep. Welch, vote was unanimous.*
- *Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.*