

NH Fire Standards and Training Commission**MEETING MINUTES** (Approved)**March 4, 2021**

9:30AM Virtual - Zoom

Action items are in bold red.**FST Commission members present:**

Jeremy Thibeault (Chair), Robert Buxton (Vice Chair), Richard C. Bailey Jr., Allan Clark, Eric Frauwirth (late), Jason Greene, J. Michael Joyal, Kerry LeBlanc, Ronald Sebastian, Steve Sherman, Nancy Smith and Eric Wilking **(12)**

FST Commission members not present:

William Campbell, Robert Field and Paul Parisi **(3)**

Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS Staff:

Director Deborah A. Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips and Hayley O'Brien **(3)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM. Chair Thibeault read the "Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to-Know Law during the State of Emergency."

Item 2. Roll call vote for attendance

Item 3. Chair Thibeault will bring up his expiration at the State Firemen's Association Board Meeting tonight.

II. REPORTS

Item 1. Questions/comments regarding reports (Division, EMS, CB, FMO, Forest Protection, Curriculum)

Director Pendergast added to her report:

- 100 foot Rosenbauer Viper Aerial Truck has been ordered.
- The A building lining system has been finished. Live fire burns have occurred.

Item 2. Legislative Report – AD Phillips reported

- HB133 – repeal of replica and another request of suspension and revocation. If an infraction is found, the Division is required to take action on somebody's license via suspension or revocation. This law change would allow the Division to issue a letter of concern before revoking or suspending their license.
- SB143 – expansion of the ability to use EMS data. This would expand what the data can be used for, currently it is only allowed to be used for research.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made (Bailey/Buxton) - to approve the minutes for the January 7, 2021 meeting; passed unanimously.

Bailey	Yes
Buxton	Yes
Clark	Yes
Frauwirth	Yes
Greene	Yes
Joyal	Yes
LeBlanc	Yes
Sebastian	Yes
Sherman	Abstain
Smith	Yes
Thibeault	Yes
Wilking	Yes

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES

Item 1. Administrative Rules Sub-Committee (Reported by Commissioner Smith)

- Have not met, nothing to report.

Item 2. Curriculum Review Sub-Committee (Reported by Commissioner Clark)

- Will discuss under New Business.

Item 3. Visiting Committees:

- **Haz Mat NFPA 1072** – (Reported by Commissioner Buxton)
Nothing to report.
- **Firefighter NFPA 1001** – (Reported by Chair Thibeault)
This has been approved and can be removed.
- **Technical Rescue NFPA 1006** – (Reported by Chair Thibeault)
Discussion for this will occur under New Business.
- **Fire Officer NFPA 1021** – (Reported by Commissioner Clark)
Nothing to report. Visiting Committee has not been established yet.
- **Instructor NFPA 1041** – (Reported by AD Phillips)
Prior to Chief Cutting retiring, staff met with him to see what direction this program was going. Meet with the curriculum committee to discuss thoughts on II & III. Looking at moving away from in person delivery, more of an online college structured class. Need to discuss with the curriculum committee on this direction.

Commissioner Sebastian is okay with filling in on this Visiting Committee. AD Phillips will have Chief Doherty reach out to Ron and fill him in on what's going on at this time.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. 602.01 Roster Data – Director Pendergast

72 percent of departments have reported. 64 departments did not respond at all or responded, but gave incorrect information, such as rank. Based on the past couple of years since this compliance started, there is not a significant increase or decrease in the number of firefighters seen in the state. They seem to be trending the same the past few years.

Thank you for those that extended extra efforts in reaching out to your neighbors to remind them about this roster compliance!

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Curriculum Review Sub-Committee & Technical Rescue 1006 – Commissioner Clark
Commissioner Clark reported that the Committee met on Monday, March 1st. All Commissioners were in attendance, with the exception of Commissioner Campbell. Received the report from the Visiting Committee as it relates to 1006. Unanimous recommendation of the Visiting Committee that the prerequisites be removed from taking the rescue classes, with the exception of confined space, which would require PPE and SCBA. The Curriculum Committee reviewed their recommendations and had a discussion. The Commissioners present voted unanimously to recommend to the full Commission their recommendation to eliminate those prerequisites. The thought behind this was that these courses would be available to a larger number of firefighters. Rescues is no longer part of Firefighter II.

A motion was made (Clark/Greene) - to remove the prerequisites from taking the rescue classes, with the exception of confined space, which would require PPE and SCBA; passed unanimously.

Bailey	Yes
Buxton	Yes
Clark	Yes
Frauworth	Yes
Greene	Yes
Joyal	Yes
LeBlanc	Yes
Sebastian	Yes
Sherman	Yes
Smith	Yes
Thibeault	Yes
Wilking	Yes

Assistant Director clarified that this vote does not change them. The next step is a 60 day comment period with 2 public hearings. After that 60 days, this will come back to the Commission for a final vote.

Item 2. Firefighter III Certifications – Chair Thibeault

These certificates are NH specific. The question is if this is something we need to maintain. During the Curriculum Committee & Visiting Committee discussion ensued that many collective bargaining agreements reference Firefighter III for increased wages. Chair Thibeault recommended giving Management & Labor a lot of notice if the Commission agrees to do away with Firefighter III. Commissioner Buxton agreed with this approach to give plenty of time about this notice. Commissioner Smith asked if there was alternative options elsewhere, such as in unions/cities that could include in their contract. Chair Thibeault confirmed this. Chair Thibeault agreed with setting a target date to remove this and send a joint letter from the Director and the Commission to everyone, as well as having the Director bring this to the Five Families Meeting.

A motion was made (Bailey/Sebastian) – *in the Commissions continued effort to streamline the course offerings and course definitions that the Chairman be charged with conferring with the major constituency groups on the Commissions intent to remove the Firefighter III course and report back to the Commission at the next meeting on the temperature of the various organizations and any other counter proposals that may come up; passed unanimously.*

Bailey	Yes
Buxton	Yes
Clark	Yes
Frauworth	Yes
Greene	Yes
Joyal	Yes
LeBlanc	Yes
Sebastian	Yes
Sherman	Yes
Smith	Yes
Thibeault	Yes
Wiling	Yes

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. This is the Director's last Commission meeting. Congratulations & thank you from all! In regards to the New Director, a second round of interviews is taking place today. A couple of names will get recommended to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will interview them and confer with the Governor. One name will be brought back and a special meeting will be held with the Commission and Coordinating Board to meet with the Commissioners recommendation to the Governor. Clarification from Commissioner Smith on the logistics of calling a special meeting was asked. Assistant Commissioner Bailey stated that he suspects the name will be to the Commissioner before the end of next week (3/12) then the Commissioner will have an interview with them and then looking at the 3rd week of March/first week of April for a special

meeting. The special meeting will be a non-public session.

Item 2. Sent a notice out to all of the fire service in regards to the Statewide Fire Incident Reporting System. Over 20 people were interested in participating. AD Phillips will be setting up a meeting with the Fire Marshals Office. Join project between our Division and the Fire Marshals Office. The Division will be administering it. The main goal is to establish what this report will look like.

Item 3. Future Commission meetings will be held through Microsoft Teams, no longer utilizing WebEx.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made (Smith/Thibeault) – *to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 AM*, passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: May 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM – Virtual –Microsoft Teams

(Minutes: Hayley O'Brien, Administrative Assistant)