

NH Fire Standards and Training Commission**MEETING MINUTES** (Approved)**June 3, 2021**9:30AM – **Dormitory Building, Classrooms 5&6****Action items are in bold red.****FST Commission members present:**

Robert Buxton (Vice Chair), Richard C. Bailey Jr., Allan Clark, Robert Field, Jason Greene, Nancy Smith, Sean Toomey and Eric Wilking **(8)**

FST Commission members not present:

William Campbell (late), J. Michael Joyal, Kerry LeBlanc, Steve Sherman and Ronald Sebastian **(5)**

Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS Staff:

Director Justin Cutting, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips and Hayley O'Brien **(3)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:32AM. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. Membership

- All members are aware of this expiration. J. Michael Joyal will not be renewing his appointment. NHSFA has posted this position.

Item 3. Congratulations and Welcome Director Justin Cutting!

II. REPORTS

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

Questions for the Division came up. Answers are below.

- Unsure of the Governor's end to the press conferences. He will continue to use Classrooms 1 & 2 until the Division is notified that the press conferences are no longer.
- Average lapse in EMS licenses is about 300-400. This year was 506 lapses. Unsure of the demographics into who and why.
- FFI and FFII with Lakes Region Community College ran the new program. FFI went great, 26 students, all passed the practical and only 1 failed the written. With FFII, only 1 failed the practical, 14 failed the written. Investigation was done. The end of the chapter quizzes were done slightly different. This issue should be resolved by the next FFII program that is scheduled to run in Bethlehem. A study session was offered to those 14 people and 7/8 people retested and only 1 failed. The first attempt was nullified for those 14 students and allowed them the opportunity for the study session, gave them the right materials and allowed a retest at no cost. They also were given the option to come test when they were ready, not required to come to monthly testing. This FFII was

half our students and half LRCC students.

Item 2. Waiver Report – Reported by AD Phillips
No new waivers to report out on.

Item 3. Legislative Report – Reported by AD Phillips

An updated Legislative Tracking Spreadsheet is dispersed to all members prior to the meeting. Closely watching repeal of replica, which allows the Commissioner to issue a letter of concern within an EMS investigation. Also, the expansion of EMS data rules to allow EMS data sharing for analytical purposes.

Lastly, discussion in the legislature to provide extra money to either the fire fund or the Academy (unsure which one at this time) to either increase the FFI class or decrease the cost of FFI. Have not seen the final version of this, seems to have support. Commissioner Clark asked for \$2.1 million, got \$600,000 total. Asked the Commission to review how the cost of FFI and FFII is determined. \$2.1 million goes to the Fire Marshals Office from the fire fund. \$200,000 each biennium would go towards FFI and FFII. Unsure of the other \$300,000.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made (Field/Greene) - *to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2021 meeting;* Smith and Toomey abstained, passed unanimously.

A motion was made (Field/Bailey) - *to approve the non-public minutes for the May 6, 2021 non-public meeting;* Smith and Toomey abstained, passed unanimously.

A motion was made (Clark/Bailey) - *to unseal the minutes from the May 6, 2021 non-public meeting;* passed unanimously.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES

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

- Have not had a chance to meet. No report. Commissioner Smith will talk about upcoming rules with Director Cutting and Assistant Director Phillips.

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

- Curriculum Committee met prior to the FSTC meeting.
- Recommendations were made to the full Commission, recommendations of the Visiting Committee as it relates to currently called, FFIII, rescue requirements, which would change the prerequisites with the exception of confined space. 2 public hearings were held, nobody in attendance at either hearing, 1 written comment from a firefighter in Ossipee that wanted to ensure the introduction to rescue skills would still be available to those that wanted it. These prerequisites would mirror Swiftwater, no FFIII certification if they didn't meet FFII prerequisites, if they did, they would get a FFIII certificate. Confined space PPE/SCBA still required, med release required for all classes still required for all classes. Eliminating FFII requirement and the rescue skills requirement to take the

program which will significantly increase the demographics of those who can take these programs. FFIII certification will remain if they already meet prerequisites.

A motion was made (Field/Clark) - to accept the Curriculum Committee's report; passed unanimously.

- Curriculum Committee also discussed the Instructor II and III program. The Committee encouraged the Visiting Committee to be prepared to present their proposed changes to the curriculum of Instructor II and III over the summer. The Curriculum Committee would hold a special meeting to hear their presentation and make recommendations. The intent is to do the presentation early enough in the summer in case it needed to go back to the Visiting Committee for modifications, they could still do this with the expectation that the Curriculum Committee would be able to make a recommendation to the full Commission in September.
- Discussion about establishing a Visiting Committee for Fire Officer. The Commission has the authority to designate to the Curriculum Committee that they can establish the Visiting Committee. The Commission has the ability to convey that authority to the Visiting Committee. This could potentially save 30-60 days in the process. The final policy states; The Commission may delegate the authority to seat the Visiting Committee to the Curriculum Committee.

A motion was made (Clark/Field) – to allow the Curriculum Committee to seat the Visiting Committee for Fire Officer I and II; passed unanimously.

Item 3. Visiting Committees:

- **Haz Mat NFPA 1072** – Reported by Commissioner Buxton
Nothing to report.
- **Technical Rescue NFPA 1006** – Reported by AD Phillips
No new report. No current rep from the NH Firemen's Association, we will need a liaison from the Commission for that program. This will be put on the agenda for September.
- **Fire Officer NFPA 1021** – Reported by Commissioner Clark
Discussed in Curriculum review Sub-Committee.
- **Instructor NFPA 1041** – Reported by Ron Sebastian
Instructor I is still an in person program. Instructor II & III still in development, hoping for something to present mid-June to the Commission. Potential vote this fall.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Election of Chair

Commissioner Thibeault has resigned from FSTC. Over the summer, the nominating committee will get together in August and bring a name forward for a vote in September. Any interested parties over the next month, email Hayley.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Leak prop is in Manchester for 2 weeks for Hazmat Tech training and has worked great. Showed up when promised and worked as promised. Training that wouldn't have happened without the prop. Thank you to the Academy.

Item 2. Director Cutting has already met with a dozen of the North Country Chiefs. Want more FFI classes, lower the cost and getting a garage and pumper up there.

Item 3. NFPA 1582 Physical Reimbursement funds are expiring June 30th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made (Field/Smith) – to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 AM, passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: September 2 2021 at 9:30 AM – Dormitory Building – Classrooms 5 & 6

(Minutes: Hayley O'Brien, Administrative Assistant)