

NH Fire Standards and Training Commission**MEETING MINUTES** (Approved)**May 2, 2019**

9:30AM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Classrooms 5 & 6, Dormitory
98 Smokey Bear Boulevard
Concord, NH 03301

FST Commission members present:

Jeremy Thibeault (Chair), Robert M. Buxton (Vice Chair), Allan Clark, Justin Cutting, Ashley Frame, Kerry M. LeBlanc, Peter Lennon, Paul J. Parisi, Perry Plummer, Kevin Pratt, and Nancy Smith **(11)**

FST Commission member not present:

William Campbell, J. Michael Joyal, Andre Parent, and Steven Sherman **(4)**

Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS Staff:

Director Deborah A. Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Chief of Strategy and Planning Nick Mercuri, David Jones, and June Connor (notes) **(5)**

Guests:

Bradford Williamson and Jay Lord (Carroll County Forest Fire Wardens' Association) **(2)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:35AM, and the FST Commission members welcomed the new commissioner, Perry Plummer, newly appointed DOS Assistant Commissioner.

Item 2. Membership update – A letter has been sent to the G & C regarding Commissioner Pratt's replacement as a representative of the Federation of Fire Mutual Aids Association. (POST MEETING NOTE: Kerry LeBlanc's renewed membership is also in progress.)

II. REPORTS

- Commissioner Buxton asked for clarification of the CPAT exam schedule; students who failed on the first day were able to come back on the second day for retesting.
- Online training was a factor in the 98% increase in training. **Director Pendergast will get a breakdown of on campus, off campus, and online training.**
- Those from the Criminal Justice Public Safety Committee who visited the campus on April 10th were impressed with what they saw and asked many questions during their visit.
- The ladder truck is still out of service and is at Lakes Region Fire Apparatus for repair.

- Commissioner Plummer asked for a definition of student interactions; these include both online and classroom attendees who are taking a "CREF'd" (course reference numbered) class.
 - Campus visitors include everyone who visits the campus.
 - AD Phillips explained that the Division is working towards including fire department members who use the Burton Training Facility in non-cref'd training in the "student interactions" statistics.
- There is a May CPAT scheduled. Here is the link for CPAT information (scroll to the CPAT Application Packet 2019):
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/facilities/testing/index.html>
 - Clarification was given about the number of people who have taken the CPAT exam. About 200 – 250 people take the CPAT exam every year, spread out over several testing dates. The percentage of "no shows" is at about 20%.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made (Cutting/Parisi) - *to approve the minutes for the March 7, 2019 meeting;* passed with abstentions from Plummer, Pratt, and Lennon.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES

Item 1. Administrative Rules Sub-Committee

- **Haz Mat Rules** expire in September. Chief Nick Mercuri asked that those on the Administrative Rules sub-committee meet today so that a recommendation can be prepared on the update to the rules and brought forward to the FST Commission at the June meeting.
 - A discussion ensued about getting this done in a timely manner in preparation for the JLCAR process.
 - **Chief Nick Mercuri and AD Jeffrey Phillips will take a look at NFPA 1072 and NFPA 472.**
- A report is forthcoming regarding the survey results (credentialing and suspension and revocation)

Item 2. Curriculum Review Sub-Committee

Not discussed at this meeting.

Item 3. Visiting Committees

- **Haz Mat Technician** met; no report yet, but work is in progress.
- **Firefighter** – A visiting committee has not yet been established. The NHAFC is also looking into this topic, summarized by Commissioner Buxton.
 - At this point, the guests from the Federation of Forest Fire Wardens spoke about their concerns over the reduction of hours for Wildland Firefighter training, followed by input from the FST Commission members. Chair Thibeault concluded that the work on this topic should be done in the visiting committee.

- **Driver Operator VC** – This committee met with Commissioner Andre Parent. The IFSTA program is currently in use, and new standards were discussed. The committee may have an initial proposal to present at the June FST Commission meeting.
- **Technical Rescue** staff at the Division will be researching curriculums for the rope program.
- **Fire Officer** – nothing to report
- **Inspector/Investigator** – The Inspector II program is nearly finished. This program does not include “Warrants and Citations”; rather, this is offered as a separate program.
- **Instructor** – **AD Jeffrey Phillips will reach out to Commissioner Cutting to set a date**; the standard just came out.
- **1051 Wildland Standard** – still current; has not gone to a new edition. This is not a standing visiting committee at this point in time. **(Remove from list)**

A discussion ensued about the problems with visiting committee members and fluctuating attendance/voting members, etc.; **Director Pendergast and AD Jeffrey Phillips will come up with a process for selecting visiting committee members.**

A motion was made (Buxton/Parisi) – *for the NH FST&EMS staff to recommend a visiting committee policy, excluding committees which are already seated*, passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. PFAS update

10 monitoring wells have been installed. Samples for testing will be pulled within the next week. They will be looking for evidence of 24 different compounds. Results will be presented at the September FST Commission meeting.

[SB 257](#) may address some of Commissioner Clark’s concerns about PFAS.

AD Jeffrey Phillips will reach out to DES to get some PFAS information and a report regarding the number of wells used for NH fire departments (for the June meeting). The DES fire department liaison will also be invited to the meeting.

Item 2. SAMHSA grant update

5 communities are participating, including Epping, which will cover the vast majority of the seacoast. Salem has applied and, like Epping, will be a hub.

We are in the 2nd year of the grant, with 2 more years coming up.

Item 3. Legislative authority of the FST Commission to establish credentials

As of right now, the FST Commission does not have statutory authority to establish credentials, based off of the JLCAR rules; this will be confirmed with someone from the AG’s office.

More questions were asked about the 2 surveys; 250–300 responses were received for each one. The sub-committee will decide whether or not to do a second push.

Item 4. Legislative Report

Chief Nick Mercuri and Commissioner Parisi gave a report. **(See attachment – click on paperclip icon)**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. DES Rules

This was sent out for informational purposes; no action is required on the part of the FST Commission.

Item 2. Cancer Awareness (added on by Chair Thibeault)

The Ed-Tech Department updated this online program which is part of Firefighter I as well as a stand-alone program. The commission members agreed that this was a delivery change but not a curriculum one, so no motion was required. **AD Jeffrey Phillips will add a note about which browsers to use.**

Director Pendergast reported that there will be an article in the City and Town Municipal Association Magazine about this topic. **AD Jeffrey Phillips will try to get copies for the FST Commission members.**

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

AD Jeffrey Phillips went over the 2018 fire department tally for Fire 602.01. There was a 93% return rate. This is the first time this information has been gathered.

AC Bailey will be invited to a future meeting to recognize him for his service on the FST Commission.

At the next meeting, AD Jeffrey Phillips will answer Commissioner Clark's question about being certified in Instructor I and being a State Fire Instructor.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Item 1. Motion to adjourn regular meeting

A motion was made (Buxton/Lennon) – to adjourn the meeting at 11:15AM, passed unanimously.