

NH Fire Standards and Training Commission**MEETING MINUTES** (Approved)**September 5, 2019**

9:30AM

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

FST Commission members present:

Jeremy Thibeault (Chair), Allan Clark, Justin Cutting, Ashley Frame, J. Michael Joyal, Kerry LeBlanc, Andre Parent, Paul Parisi, Perry Plummer, Steven Sherman, Nancy Smith, and Eric Wilking **(12)**

FST Commission member not present:

Robert M. Buxton, William Campbell, and Peter Lennon **(3)**

Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS Staff:

Director Deborah A. Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Chief of Strategy and Planning Nick Mercuri and Hayley O'Brien **(4)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:35AM. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REPORTS

Director Pendergast added to her report:

- The Division has been awarded from FEMA the 2018 AFG Grant. They removed recording and lighting equipment, however they did fund 392,000 dollars for the A Building, a new haul truck, a new pediatric simulation mannequin, and 30 SCBA cylinders. The timing for this to be done is around 8-10 months.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made (Parisi/Parent) - *to approve the minutes for the June 2, 2019 meeting;* passed with an abstention from Smith.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES

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

- Nancy Smith reported there hasn't been a meeting since the June 2nd meeting.
- AD Phillips followed up with the attorney and transportation and safety bureau in regards to whether or not the Commission has sufficient statutory authority to credential firefighters. The Sub-Committee received notification from the Attorney General's Office who feels there is a sufficient authority although there could potentially be an issue with JLCAR. Director Pendergast responded by following up with the last Commission meeting when she stated

that this would not be a priority for the Division due to the time commitment that will be required.

A motion was made (Plummer/Clark) - *to table the credentialing for the time being*, passed with opposition from Joyal.

A motion was made (Parisi/Wilking) – *to have the Sub-Committee move forward with rule making regarding the suspension and revocation of certifications*; passed unanimously.

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

- Met on August 19th with Director Pendergast, AD Phillips, Chair Thibeault, Vice Chair Buxton, Commissioner Cutting and Commissioner Clark. Reaffirmation that the Director is the Executor of the Commission and that the staff is there to help and support the Commission.
- They discussed that the Curriculum Committee would seat the Visiting Committee and provide overall guidance to the Visiting Committee. The Curriculum Committee would meet after the regular meeting to ensure comments and questions can be handled.
- A recommendation was made that the make-up of the NFPA 1001 Committee would consist of 9 individuals.

A motion was made (Joyal/Smith) – *to adopt the recommended protocol*;

Discussion ensued Commissioner Joyal recommended a change in the process to have the Curriculum Committee submit a list of members to the full Commission for a final vote.

A motion was made (Joyal/Sherman) – *to amend the original motion and modify the Visiting Committee Protocol to have the Curriculum Committee recommend the Visiting Committee members for approval by the full commission*; passed with opposition from Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Cutting.

- Commissioner Joyal went through the proposed Visiting Committee Protocol to review the structure.
- Commissioner Cutting suggested adding a place for the date, the Chair's signature, and the Commissioner's signature to the Visiting Committee Protocol.
- Discussion ensued about the establishment of a quorum; whether or not a quorum needs to be present.

This motion was withdrawn by Joyal/Sherman.

A motion was made (Joyal/Sherman) – *to table the policy pending legal counsel*; passed unanimously.

A motion was made (Joyal/Plummer) – *to remove item number 4 from the existing protocol*.

This motion was withdrawn by Joyal/Plummer.

Chair Thibeault clarifies the next steps for the Curriculum Committee;

- **The Visiting Committee is going to meet after this meeting, work on the revised draft, they will then seek legal counsel on the revised draft and come up with a list of 7 recommended names and alternatives for the next Commission meeting.**
- AD Phillips expressed concerns with transitioning to the new standard meaning we will need to ask for an extension from ProBoard. Also, the length it takes to process

curriculum development, including the public hearings and 60 day period could affect our programs for next year. All fall programs have to be scheduled before June because classes start the end of July.

- Chair Thibeault suggested calling a special meeting to keep this process moving along and ensure the fall programs can run.

Item 3. Visiting Committees

- **Haz Mat Technician:** (Vice Chair Buxton absent, reported by AD Phillips)
Haz Mat Committee met on August 28th and broke down the 15 chapters for review. The first 5 chapters were reviewed in the August meeting. The next meeting in September, they will review the next 5 chapters and the last 5 chapters will be reviewed after that meeting.
- **NFPA 1001 Firefighter** (already discussed under Curriculum Review Committee)
- **Driver Operator:** (Discussed under New Business)
- **Technical Rescue:** Nothing to report.
- **Fire Officer** – Nothing to report.
- **Inspector/Investigator** – Nothing to report.
- **Instructor:** Reported by Justin Cutting
A recommendation for the Curriculum Committee hopefully within the next few months.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Visiting committee policy (already discussed in Sub-Committees)

Item 2. Legislative authority of the FST Commission to establish credentials (tabled)

Item 3. Legislative Report: Reported by Nick Mercuri

- House Bill 224 regarding EMT's LODD was signed by the Governor.

Chief Mercuri asked the Commission members if they had any requests or change to what items we report on, if they need changes, more information/less information.

Commissioner Joyal shared his appreciation for the reports that are sent out and recommended that once the LSR's come out it would be helpful to know what is approaching.

- SB 257 was signed in regards to firefighter foam cannot contain any PFAS chemicals.
- SB 193 was signed to restrict flame retardants in certain fabrics.

Director Pendergast will get with Marshal Parisi to disseminate this information to our stakeholders. Assistant Commissioner Plummer suggested drawing up a fact sheet to send out this information.

Item 4. Committee of Merit Ceremony Update

Director Pendergast reported their will be around 175 Fire and EMS awards to be handed out this year. The ceremony will take place at the Capital Center for the Arts on Monday, September 30th, 2019 at 6:30PM. Expecting around 700 – 750 folks to attend.

Item 5. Division Assessment Plan

Director Pendergast reported that she is scheduled for the next NH Association of Fire Chiefs meeting to review the presentation for the Division's Assessment Plan. Director Pendergast is making her rounds to sit down with new fire chiefs as well.

VI. NEW BUSINESS**Item 1. Statistics of Retraining Policy (AD Phillips reported)**

AD Phillips handed out statistics in regards to the Jones and Bartlett online training program for students who have failed the Firefighter I and Firefighter II written exam on their two attempts and reviewed them with all the Commission members. After successful completion of the Jones and Bartlett online training program each student is granted two additional attempts at the certification exam.

Item 2. NFPA 1003 Airport Firefighter Visiting Committee

A motion was made (Parent/Cutting) – to table this until the Visiting Committee Policy is determined; passed unanimously.

Item 3. NFPA 1002 Driver Operator All Vehicle Approval (AD Phillips reported)

Final approval for the Commission. A presentation was done at a previous Commission meeting to show the updates to the program. A public hearing has been conducted for all 3 programs including the 60 day comment period. 2 public hearings were held and there were no public comments submitted and no attendance.

Item 4. NFPA 1002 Driver Operator Pumps Approval (AD Phillips reported)

Public hearings were held and there were no attendance, but received 1 public comment from Dana Cullen stating he would like Firefighter I to remain a prerequisite. The NFPA Standard removed Firefighter I as a prerequisite.

Item 5. NFPA 1002 Driver Operator Aerial Approval (AD Phillips reported)

Public hearings were held and there was no attendance or public comments.

A motion was made (Smith/Parent) – to approve all 3 programs; passed unanimously.

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Assistant Commissioner Plummer brought copies of the School Safety Report to ensure all members of the Commission received it and are aware of it. The task force was established by the Governor and this report was done up by them.

Website to track progress: <https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/>

Chair Thibeault asked the Commission if they wanted a special meeting to be held Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 9:30 AM to discuss the Curriculum Committee Policy.

A motion was made (Wilking/Joyal) – to approve the special Commission meeting on September 26, 2019; passed unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Item 1. Motion to adjourn regular meeting

A motion was made (Cutting/Wilking) – to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 AM; passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 in the ARFF building classroom

(Notes by Hayley O'Brien, Administrative Assistant)