

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

Location: 98 Smokey Bear Blvd, Concord, NH
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305
Telephone: 603-223-4200
Toll Free: 1-800-371-4503

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 25, 2016

-Approved-

Voting Members Present:

Commissioners:

Richard Bailey, Jr.; Robert Buxton; Stephen Carrier; Justin Cutting, J. William Degnan, J. Michael Joyal; Richard McGahey; Kevin Pratt; Nancy J. Smith, Esq.; and Jeremy Thibeault (10)

Voting Members Absent:

Commissioners:

William Campbell; Kerry LeBlanc; Peter Lennon; Steven Sherman (4)

NHFSTEMS Staff:

Director Deborah A. Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Chief Nick Mercuri, Deputy Chief Andy Anderson, and June Connor (minutes) (5)

Guests:

Eric Uitts, Driver/Operator Program Coordinator

NOTE: "Action" items are in bold red.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order

- The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair Carrier at 9:10AM on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH. A quorum was present with 10 voting members in attendance.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Pratt.
- Chair Carrier stated that some agenda items would be taken out of order to accommodate the schedules of some members and David Hilts. **In these minutes, items taken out of order are in bold blue.**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made (Smith/Lennon) - to approve the minutes from the FST Commission meeting held on October 6, 2016; passed with 7 in favor and 3 abstentions from Commissioners Joyal, Degnan, and Bailey.

IV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Item 2. Follow up from October 6, 2016 non-public session

These minutes are kept separate from the public session minutes.

Item 1. Approval of NP minutes from October 6, 2016 non-public session (moved to V. OLD BUSINESS, Item 2 so that they could be voted on in public session)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Item 2. Approval of NP minutes from October 6, 2016

Motion (Thibeault/Smith) to approve the Non-Public session minutes from October 6, 2016 with changes made; passed unanimously.

Item 3. Administrative Rule Sub-Committee

David Hilts began by explaining that because the Commissioner needed more time to study and consult with legal, there would not be enough time to come to a consensus with the FST Commission before the November 12, 2016 deadline. Mr. Hilts recommended putting forward the re-adoption of the current rules with no changes. The members wanted to keep the rule change momentum going and discussed setting a specific timeline. Commissioner Smith cautioned that it might be wise to ensure that the changes that the Commission wants to make should coincide with statutory changes.

A motion was made (Thibeault/Joyal) to re-adopt the current rules and send them forward through the rule making process with the goal of having the FST Commission and the Commissioner come to a consensus on the new proposed rules; passed with 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Cutting).

The Commission members discussed adding the following dates to the schedule:

- Add a commission meeting in December to the 2016 schedule to hear feedback on the proposed rules from Commissioner Barthelmes.
- Add a meeting to the 2017 schedule in February to gain a consensus.
- Hold a public hearing in March on the proposed rule changes.

A motion was made (Buxton/Joyal) to schedule a FST Commission meeting on December 8, 2016, at which time the Administrative Rules Sub-Committee would bring back feedback from the Commissioner of the Department of Safety regarding the proposed rule changes; passed unanimously.

David Hilts left the meeting at 10:50 when the discussion was over.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1. Driver/Operator Program

- The public hearing for the Driver/Operator Program commenced at 10:50AM.
- Eric Uitts handed out a summary of updated changes (**See attachment**) to the Driver Operator Program and answered questions from the commissioners.
- It was noticed that the Public Hearing was not properly noticed; a discussion ensued, and it was agreed that it would be properly noticed (2 mailings sent out to NH fire departments, posting on web, posting in Fire Academy lobby) and taken up again at the December 8, 2016 meeting.
- The public hearing was closed at 11:05AM.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 5. Nominating Committee

Commissioner McGahey spoke for Kerry LeBlanc, the head of the Nominating Committee; he brought forth the nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair of the FST Commission, beginning in January, 2017.

A motion was made (Pratt/Smith) to nominate Jeremy Thibeault as the new Chair and Robert Buxton as the new Vice Chair, taking effect at the first FST Commission meeting on January 5, 2017; passed unanimously.

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services (Chief Nick Mercuri)

Chief Mercuri spoke about the success of the North Country NH State and Firemen's Association Conference, held last week in North Conway. About 200 people attended.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office (Fire Marshal J. William Degnan)

The Fire Marshal left the meeting early, and no report was submitted.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau (Chief Steven Sherman)

Chief Sherman was not present, and no report was submitted.

Item 4. Curriculum Review (Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips)

- Assistant Director Phillips reported on the success of the Instructor I telecast to Gorham.
- He also handed out a sheet of statistics regarding the high school programs. (See attachment) The pass rate for the high school programs is lower than that of the regular Firefighter I programs; it is thought that high school students are not used to having certification exams be an “all or nothing” determination of their success.

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Updates on Grant funding:

2016 AFG application period is open. So far, looking at a final gear purchase for instructors, hose for use on apparatus and drill yard, gear washer/extractor for the North Country, purchase of exhaust evacuation system. For EMS -cardiac rhythm generators for training cardiac scenarios.

We have **implemented several health and safety policies** to be sure we are keeping our students and instructors safe as well as creating a culture of safety and wellness early in the training and careers of our newer firefighters.

- Medical sign off
- Fit testing
- Drill Master/safety officer
- Fire wipes
- Commitment to use the exhaust extraction system consistently in the Firehouse

A quick report on student activity:

The last fiscal year, 7-1-15 through 6-30-16, we put 17,702 students through training courses, classes, seminars and online education resulting in 2,146 certifications. This is about a 20% increase in students and a 12% increase in certifications. I am very proud of Academy staff and instructors for their hard work to achieve these increases with NO increase to the budget.

Year in review from EMS:

The "EMS in the warm zone" awareness program was developed through our online learning center. So far, 1100 fire and EMS and some law enforcement responders have taken this program. We are in the process of developing the operations level program. We are also working HSEM and GMU to distribute \$300,000 of grant funds to departments for purchasing warm zone EMS equipment at \$6000 per department.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Fraudulent certificate update

- No investigation update available

Item 2. Right to Know rule changes

There were no further updates. **This item can be removed from the agenda for the next meeting.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. 2017 FST Commission Schedule

Motion (Buxton/Bailey) *to add an additional meeting (February 2, 2017) to the 2017 proposed FST Commission schedule;* passed unanimously.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

There were no items for the good of the order.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion (Thibeault/Cutting) *to adjourn at 11:37AM;* passed unanimously.

2016 FST Commission meeting remaining schedule:

December 8, 2016 – Next meeting

2017 FST Commission schedule:

January 5, 2017

February 2, 2017

March 2, 2017

May 4, 2017

June 1, 2017

September 7, 2017

November 2, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Pendergast, Director

Prepared by June Connor, Administrative Assistant I