

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

FISH AND GAME HEADQUARTERS, CONCORD, NH

MARCH 21, 2007

Meeting Location: Fish and Game HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Commissioners Present: T. Hubert, W. Carney, P. Costa, N. Russell, R. Phillipson, W. Morse, T. Tichy, S. Guaraldi, G. Normandeau and S. Nottonson.

Commissioners Absent: M. Kalter

Executive Director Perry - absent

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and asked the audience to join him in the pledge of allegiance. He informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized the public may speak on any item on the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Normandeau informed the audience that the Commission would be going into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b), to discuss the hiring of a public employee, after a brief discussion regarding the proposed Youth Hunt in Unit M as proposed at the February 21, 2007 Meeting.

Mark Ellingwood, Wildlife Supervisor, informed the Commission that New Hampshire is recognized and ranked as one of the best youth friendly hunting states in the nation. He stated that while he realizes that the intent is positive, he wanted to relay some potential concerns to the Commission in regards to the proposed youth hunt in Unit M. He reported that the check stations would be required to stay open for an additional month, changing the workflow for staff and Conservation Officers to some degree. He further reported that this could be very controversial with strong opinions from hunters in regards to fair chase, that being it's winter with snow on the ground, the potential for taking a deer with an obvious fetus present, and landowners who already feel our season is long enough.

In closing, Mark stated that he is not saying that these are insurmountable tasks; he just wanted the Commission to be aware of some of the possible conflicts.

Commissioner Phillipson stated that license sales are declining and believes the reasoning is that we are not offering enough, as people are not buying licenses. He further stated that he does not have a problem sending this to public hearing and would be willing to take the heat on this.

Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs, stated that she does not believe the license sales decrease is due to the department not offering enough hunting opportunities.

Commissioner Hubert stated that he is in favor of increasing youth opportunity. He continued to say that fall is a busy time for kids/parents involved in sports. He further stated he also agrees with Judy Stokes that public opinion is very important to us.

Commissioner Tichy stated, "I think we need to move forward with this as other states have January seasons".

Commissioner Nottonson stated he is basically looking to extend the weekend the youth and the mentor have. He stated that the only change would be that it would take place from January 1 – January 31. He further stated that having the season in January is a great opportunity for youth to get involved in landowner relations and is a great learning experience as well.

Much discussion ensued.

Commissioner Costa moved that the Commission reconsider its prior vote relative to Unit M proposals, only to the extent that the Commission hold back on moving forward with rulemaking on the Youth Hunt proposal for Unit M in January, pending public input and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote carried with 5 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention. (R. Phillipson, T. Tichy, and S. Nottonson) (R. Rowan abstained).

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments were heard at this time.

At this time, 2:03p.m., Commissioner Carney moved to go into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b) and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners present: Commissioner Hubert "yes", Commissioner Phillipson "yes", Commissioner Carney "yes", Commissioner Costa "yes", Commissioner Guaraldi "yes", Commissioner Rowan "yes", Commissioner Morse "yes", Commissioner Nottonson "yes", Commissioner Tichy "yes", and Commissioner Normandeau "yes".

Commissioner Hubert moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session and Commissioner Carney seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. At this time, 3:52 p.m., Commissioner Phillipson moved to come out of the non-public session and Commissioner Tichy seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. A roll call vote was taken of all Commissioners present: Commissioner Hubert "yes", Commissioner Phillipson "yes", Commissioner Carney "yes", Commissioner Costa "yes", Commissioner Guaraldi "yes", Commissioner Rowan "yes", Commissioner Morse "yes", Commissioner Nottonson "yes", Commissioner Tichy "yes", and Commissioner Normandeau "yes".

At this time, 4:05 p.m., Commissioner Costa moved to adjourn and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Guaraldi, Secretary

Approved: _____
Glenn Normandeau, Chairman

Date: _____