

NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

MARCH 18, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301.

Commissioners Present: E. Orff, R. Phillipson, R. Rowan, T. Tichy, S. Guaraldi, P. Costa, J. Ryan, T. Hubert, and W. Morse

Commissioners absent: M. Kalter

Coastal Commissioner: vacant

Executive Director Normandeau - present

Chairman Phillipson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and asked the audience to join in the pledge of allegiance. He informed the audience that the public is entitled to attend all Commission meetings and when recognized by the chairman, may speak on any item on the agenda.

He announced the passing of Bob Dole, fellow sportsmen and supporter of the department. He reported that Bob was active in the Sullivan County Sportsmen's Club and would be greatly missed. He asked that the audience join in a moment of silence.

ACTION ITEMS:

1.) Commissioner Rowan moved to approve the February 18, 2009 Commission minutes and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

1a.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve the minutes of the Special Commission Meeting dated February 12, 2009 and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a – 2c.) Commissioner Hubert moved to approve the below donations and Commissioner Guaraldi seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

2a.) Donation in the amount of \$67.12 from Jodi Reynolds, as reimbursement for a search and rescue mission involving her daughter and three friends, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2b.) Donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Ms. Nicola Taylor, as partial reimbursement for a search & rescue mission on August 1, 2008, to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account.

2c.) Donation in the amount of \$72.00 from David & Kathryn Jamison, in memory of Laurence Frederickson, Jr., to be deposited into the Search & Rescue Account

3.) Commissioner Costa moved to approve a donation in the amount of \$5,000 from the Meredith Rotary Club, to be utilized to support fisheries research and management activities and Commissioner Rowan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

4.) Commissioner Orff moved to approve going forward with rulemaking for changes to the rules for sea herring, lobsters, and haddock and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

5.) Commissioner Rowan moved to approve the below as, "Acceptable Commission Expenses" and Commissioner Orff seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

* Mileage related to Commission business:

Commission Meetings/Tolls

Committee Meetings

Commission Hearings

Rulemaking Hearings

Liaison/Outreach Meetings

Events or meetings approved by the Commission Chairman

* Reimbursements:

Meals – when required (evening meetings, etc.)

Postage related to Commission business

Materials utilized in carrying out Commission business

(Postcards, posters, envelopes, stationary, etc.)

Costs for overnight expenses must have prior Chairman approval

(Applies when 2 consecutive days travel is necessary. Total overnight expenses

must be less than approved mileage expense of an additional round trip)

(Safe Travel)

All reimbursement requests are to be accompanied by receipts.

6.) Commissioner Rowan reported that much work has gone into the revisions and update of the Commission Handbook. He stated that the policies have already been approved and further stated that the book was put in user-friendly order. He stated that the next step was to develop a process to properly keep the book updated.

At this time, Commissioner Rowan moved that the DRAFT copy of the Commission Handbook be accepted and approved and Commissioner Costa seconded.

Director Normandeau stated, "I'd like to ask that you take a position on the Commission Handbook at the April 15, 2009 Commission Meeting to allow staff ample time to review and provide input".

The Commission granted the extra month for staff to review the document. Commissioner Costa withdrew her second to the motion and Commissioner Rowan withdrew his original motion.

LATE ACTION ITEM:

1.) Steve Weber, Chief, Wildlife Division, provided a brief summary of the Governor's Island Hearing held on February 18, 2009. He stated that in general the proposal does three things: establishes a deer hunting season on Governor's Island, which would mirror the hunting season that takes place on Long Island; removes the requirement to provide a written report at the end of the hunting season; and would amend the existing rule, as we no longer use lead seals.

Commissioner Rowan inquired whether the department would be limiting the number of permits issued. Steve responded that the department did not feel the need to limit participation. Commissioner Rowan reported that he had some concerns that this would limit equal opportunity.

Commissioner Costa inquired whether Law Enforcement had any concerns with the proposal. Steve responded that Law Enforcement was involved and had no concerns.

After much discussion, Commissioner Orff moved to approve the final rules for regulated deer hunting on Governor's Island and Commissioner Ryan seconded. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed. (R. Rowan)

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1.) Kathy LaBonte, Chief, Support Services, read the monthly Financial Statement dated February 28, 2009. (See attached statement)

2.) Steve Perry, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, provided an overview of proposed changes to administrative rules related to fishing. (See attached)

At this time, Steve Weber provided an update relative to the High Elevation Mitigation Settlement Agreement between Granite Reliable Power, LLC, The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, and The Appalachian Mountain Club. (See attached agreement)

STANDING COMMITTEES:

POLICY COMMITTEE: Commissioner T. Hubert, Chair; Commissioners; Kalter, Orff, Costa, and Ryan. Commissioner Hubert reported that the committee did not meet the morning of the Commission Meeting. He reported that the committee had the project of reconfiguring current policies and putting them in a consistent format. He stated that the group would be working to get that task complete by the April Commission Meeting.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Commissioner Guaraldi, Chair; Commissioners Tichy, Rowan and Morse.

Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the committee met the morning of the Commission Meeting and had good discussion.

Commissioner Guaraldi moved to support the amendment to HB-272 as presented and Commissioner Morse seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

RIVERS COMMITTEE: Commissioner Morse; Commissioner Morse had no report.

LAKES COMMITTEE: Commissioner Kalter; Commissioner Kalter was absent, therefore, no report.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Commissioner Rowan, Chair; Commissioner's Kalter and Orff. Commissioner Rowan reported that the committee met briefly last week and brought forward a list of approved Commission expenses and the approval of the Commission Handbook, which will be voted on at the April Commission Meeting.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Commissioners Guaraldi, Tichy, Orff, Kalter, and staff members: Colonel Garabedian, Judy Stokes, Chief, Public Affairs Division, and Donna Preve, Administrative Secretary. Commissioner Guaraldi reported that the Committee did not meet this month.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing heard.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:

COMMISSIONER HUBERT: Commissioner Hubert reported that he had a busy month. He reported that he had been informing constituents of HB-559 and the Wild Goose Boat Ramp issues. He stated that he missed the liaison meeting as he was away. He reported that the Wild Game Supper was a success and thanked the Sullivan County Sportsmen club for their support on HB-559 and their ongoing efforts on Sunapee. In closing, he reported that he would be attending the Volunteer Pheasant Meeting tonight in Keene at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER GUARALDI: Commissioner Guaraldi reported that she had been active in getting the word out on HB-559. She reported that she attended the Winter Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop and stated, "What a great event". She reported that she attended the liaison meeting and further reported that the Enfield Outing Club would be sponsoring a child to attend Barry Conservation Camp. In closing, she reported that she would be attending the upcoming Wildlife Federation Banquet.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Commissioner Ryan reported that he was away on vacation, therefore, missed a few Commission Meetings. He reported that he spoke with the Hawaii Fish and Game Department and found they were having similar funding issues as New Hampshire. He reported that the Candia Elementary School contacted him and inquired whether someone from the department could come to the school and provide a brief presentation before the students. Further, he stated that he has received comments regarding Lucas Pond and the state of disrepair the ramp was in. He reported that he attended a Wildlife Federation Meeting and found they were focusing on building membership. In closing, he reported that he was setting up an

out-reach meeting for constituents and clubs around the Rockingham County area, to be held at the Urban Forestry Center on April 8, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER ROWAN: Commissioner Rowan reported that he contacted the Meredith Rotary Club Chairman and shared his concerns for the lack of sanitary facilities at the fishing derby. The Chairman brought the issue before his committee and agreed to institute a policy to have portable toilets at the major points of the lake. He further reported that he attended the dog sled race and did some cooking for the participants. In closing, he reported that he attended the House Session on HB-559, The Franklin Sportsmen's Show, Special Commission Meeting, and the Handbook Committee Meeting.

COMMISSIONER ORFF: Commissioner Orff reported that he attended the Hearing on Governor's Island, The Sunset Mountain Fish & Game Club meeting, The Elkins Fish & Game Club meeting, and the Adapting to Change Meeting at HQ.

COMMISSIONER MORSE: Commissioner Morse reported that Morse Sporting Goods held an open-house day at the store and much of the discussion centered on HB-559. He reported that Sunapee Access was a big issue and was glad to see petitions circulated to support obtaining access.

COMMISSIONER COSTA: Commissioner Costa reported that she attended the Governor's Island Hearing, Trapper's Banquet, Becoming An Outdoor Woman Workshop, the House Session on HB-559, and the Special Commission Meeting. She further reported that she received a bear baiting call and referred to Commissioner Orff for information and stated she would be responding. In closing, she reported that she would be attending the Hunter Education Volunteer Banquet on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

COMMISSIONER TICHY: Commissioner Tichy reported that he attended the House Session on HB-559, testified on HB-398, regarding unauthorized use of a firearm in a compact area of a city or town. In closing, he reported that lynx tracks have been identified in Success.

COMMISSIONER KALTER: Commissioner Kalter was absent, therefore, no report.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIPSON: Commissioner Phillipson reported that he has been focusing on legislative issues this month.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Normandeau reported that Kent Gustafson, Biometrician, Wildlife Division, has been ill for sometime with appendix issues and was due to go home today. On Kent's behalf, Steve Weber thanked the Commission for the lovely fruit basket delivered by Commissioner Costa.

He reported that he had a good meeting with Division II Finance and felt the department would see the budget process through without any major problems.

He reported that he would be going before the Capitol Budget Committee to request capitol funds for roof repairs to building 2 at Fish and Game.

In addition, he reported that the department met with Outdoor Central, the department's online licensing group, to discuss potential future options for electronic licensing, both online and through point of sale, as well as a program that would send all saltwater license information directly to NOAA.

Further, he reported that the Lake Sunapee Protective Association is making their wishes known and has got the political press on regarding the potential ramp at Wild Goose. He stated that the Shore land permit has been approved and appealed. He reported that a public hearing should be scheduled in the near future regarding the wetlands permit, and that a decision would be made by the Department of Environmental Services. He stated that the final step would be the wetlands permit to go before the Governor & Council for vote, however, Governor & Council would not vote on the item until all appeals have been exhausted. In closing, he reported that it could be some time until the appeals process is over, however, would like to see the department go through the process.

Director Normandeau reported that the Town did ask Fish and Game to put an access site on Lucas Pond, however, the Town wanted to control the access site and not Fish and Game, thus, we declined.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Buck Mercier, Licensed Guide and audience member, provided a letter to the Commission addressing some concerns he had relative to Guides.

At this time, 4:25 p.m., Commissioner Guaraldi moved to adjourn and Commissioner Hubert seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Costa, Secretary

Approved: _____
Robert Phillipson, Chairman

Date: _____