



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, September 12, 2019 – NH Fire Academy, Concord, NH

Called to order at 0902 hours by Chief Buxton.

Director Pendergast gave a presentation on the processes and plans for the NH Fire Academy.

Sara Hennessey, Special Assistant for Policy and Projects for Senator Hassan, introduced herself and offered the members assistance on public safety projects

After a salute to the flag, a moment of silence was requested for departed members, with a special recognition to the family of Chief Darin Sabine of Newington who passed away this week.

Director Deborah Pendergast welcomed all to the Academy.

Advocate Members present – Michael Young of the NFSA. Ralph Sanders of NE Marine and Industrial.

Members were asked to introduce themselves and share where they were from.

Special Guests: Governor Christopher Sununu joined the meeting at 1006 hours and gave a summary of legislation relevant to public safety. He also took questions from the membership.

Minutes of the August 15 meeting: A MOTION (Walker/Chamberlain) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Pending.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Active Members: Deputy Chief Robert Selinga of the Auburn Fire Department and Chief Thomas Blanchette of the Loudon Fire Department. Kingfisher Company re-joined as an Advocate Member.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Buxton) –

- Commission on PTSD
- Researching the potential of becoming a public member to the Mechanical Board
- Partnering with NHMA for their annual conference in November. We will have a fire service track that covers Cancer/PTSD, Sober Living Facilities, Bullying
- Haz-Mat Technician Visiting committee continues to move forward
- Attended the North Pac meeting
- Thank you letter from New Durham
- Email sent to Danis regarding 501.3.C
- October we will participating in the 2020 Grant Program
- Thank you to all who participated in the Gordon Graham seminar
- Working group with Department of Safety met on August 29th to start working on resources to support first responders with PTSD
- We have created a partnership with Primex, NH Police Chiefs Association to develop a Risk Management best practices group.
- Facebook and Twitter are up and operational
- Lobbyist meeting
- Dates of Importance
 - NH Fallen Firefighter Memorial 9/28
 - NH Fire EMS Awards 9/30
 - CO Conference 11/5, 11/6
 - LifeScan 1/2020

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- October 10 meeting will be in Hudson at the Town Tavern Restaurant on Lowell Road (old Valentino's).
- Sign-up is open for the Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests. It will be at the Red Jacket Mountain View in North Conway on Veteran's Day weekend, November 8-10, 2019. The November meeting will be held at 1:00 pm at the hotel on November 9. Those not attending the weekend will still be able to attend the meeting. A separate sign-up will be available. Plan ahead because we need a minimum of 50 participants. Presentations will be made by members of the Mt. Washington Observatory and the Mountain Rescue services. Consult the website for instructions on sign-up as they are through the hotel directly.
- Work is almost done on the conversion to the new AMS program. Exec. Director and webmaster worked with MemberClicks. Chiefs Murray, Powers, Christopoulos and Lemire will be administrators and will be participating in a conference call for training and on-boarding very soon for a start-up this month.

- We believe the Crotched Mt. Christmas party will be held on December 12 but we'll get back to you on that.
- The January meeting will be at the Academy on 9th at 9:00 am. After the meeting a presentation by Life Scan Wellness Centers will focus on their screening and methodologies for early detection of cancers.

1st Vice President Report (Jones) –

- He reminded all of the NH Fire Service Symposium on November 7, 2019.

2nd Vice President Report (Rhodes) –

- He spoke of the presentation upcoming in January by Life Scan Wellness Centers. He described the program.
- He also described the process of choosing our next lobbyist.
- The NHAFC officers will now have Gmail addresses for official correspondence through the Association.

Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) –

- He spoke of the NH Fire Chiefs' certification program. Working on it now. More information will be forthcoming for a January on board.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey)

- He announced the 2019 scholarship recipients as follows:
2019 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS \$500 each

Caitlin Beattie - 72 Lafayette Street Laconia, NH 03246 Southern Maine
Community College Fire Science

Mariah Chamberlain - PO Box 334 Jaffrey, NH 03452 Endicott College Nursing

Katlyn Klose - 156 Winkley Farm Lane Rochester, NH 03867 NHTI Nursing

Michael Lajoie - 39 Reddington Landing Hampton, NH 03842 University of
Vermont English

Colleen Parisi - 29 Sullivan Ave Salem, NH 03079 UNH Psychology

Michael Parisi - 29 Sullivan Ave Salem, NH 03079 Northeastern Physician
Assistant

Connor Sloat - 11 Sawyer Road Ossipee, NH 03864 Lakes Region Community
College Fire Science

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal – Deputy Fire Marshal Shultz reported:

Bureau of Administration:

- *SB 49 – Fire Code:* SB 49 has been signed by the Governor. The 2015 edition of NFPA’s Fire Code (NFPA 1) will be effective September 8, 2019.
- *HB 562 – Building Code:* HB 562 has been signed by the Governor. The 2015 I-Codes will be effective September 15, 2019.
- *HB 710 – BCRB changes:* HB 710 have been signed by the Governor and are effective August 11, 2019.
- *Recovery Residences:* Recovery residences (Sober Houses) continue to be challenge on the forefront of our agenda. HB 311 was retained by the House, but other legislation may need to be promulgated for the 2020 legislative session. A statewide solution is needed. We will continue to engage the fire service, the building officials, NH Coalition for Recovery Residences (NHCORR) and the Attorney General’s office in proposed solutions. We are working on an Informational Bulletin for Recovery Residences to include a process for accommodations.
- *2020-2021 Budget:* We are in a holdover status with the budget. Governor Sununu has signed a continuing resolution to operate through September 30. Currently, this should not affect our service delivery to our customers. If anything changes we will let you know.
- *Open Position:* We have a current opening for a part-time Program Assistant II / Building Permit Coordinator. The position is 29.5 hours per week in Concord. Follow this link to apply and enter **15877** in Job ID.
<https://jobsp.nhfirst.nh.gov/lawtaprd/CandidateSelfService/controller.servlet?context.dataarea=lawtaprd&context.session.key.HROrganization=10&context.session.key.JobBoard=EXTERNAL>

Bureau of Investigations:

- *New/Active cases:* 18 Calls for Service in the month of August; Our 8 investigators are actively working 19 Criminal Cases.
- *Recent Court Actions:* Exeter Arson/Homicide: On August 29th Derek WEBBER plead guilty to Second Degree Murder and Arson and will sentenced on October 16th to what is likely 50 years to Life in prison.
- Wilmot House Explosion - Adam Dalton has pled guilty to Burglary, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary, and Falsifying Physical Evidence (all felonies). He will likely serve a 12-month term in the House of Corrections for his role in this incident.

Bureau of Building Safety and Construction:

- Educational Outreach: We continue to deliver fire service educational seminars across the state. These include sessions on school inspections, fireworks, oil and gas fired appliances, tent inspections, places of assembly, hood and kitchen inspections, etc. If you are interested in requesting a regional delivery of these programs please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Sean Toomey at Sean.Toomey@dos.nh.gov.
- NFPA 1 and 101 Training: The following training sessions on NFPA 1 and 101, 2015 editions have been scheduled:
 - NFPA 1
 - Tuesday, October 8th 1800-2100 hours NH Fire Academy
 - Friday, October 11th 0900-1200 hours NH Fire Academy
 - Wednesday, October 16th 1800-2100 hours Lafayette Regional School
 - NFPA 101
 - Thursday, October 10th 1800-2100 hours NH Fire Academy
 - Friday, October 11th 1300-1600 hours NH Fire Academy
 - Thursday, October 17th 1800-2100 hours Lafayette Regional School
- Solar: We have been working with the NHAFC, NHBOA and Solar Industry to consider potential amendments to the requirements for solar array spacing and roof access for one and two family dwellings. The workgroup has proposed an amendment that is in final review that would allow installations covering up to 50% of the total roof area to be exempt from the access provisions in NFPA 1.
- Administrative Rules: We have started work on the review and update to Saf-C 6000, the State Fire Code with an anticipated completion of December 2019. Anyone with comments or suggestions are encourage to forward your information to our office through the fmo@dos.nh.gov email

Informational Bulletin: We have updated the Secondary Means of Escape: Egress

- Windows & Doors Informational Bulletin. The bulletin is available on our website: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/bulletins/documents/2019-01SecondaryMeansofEscape-WindowsandDoors.pdf>
- School Construction: A few reminders now that the 2019-2020 school year has started:
 - All public school construction must be reviewed by our office.
 - Fire Chiefs are required to inspect schools annually and provide a report to our office, School Board and Superintendent by December 15th
 - The required fire drill requirements have been changed. A typical school year will have 6 fire evacuation drills and 4 all hazard drills. One of the required all hazard drills must test the response to an armed assailant. See the

following fact sheet for additional information:

https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Recommendation-3-FireandAllHazard-Drills.InfoSheet.Final_.pdf

- Check out the NH School Safety Resources page:
<https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/>

Bureau of Planning and Support Services:

- *Fire Mobilization Plan:* The NH Fire Mobilization plan is being updated and training programs are being rolled out across the state. Questions regarding the plan or training can be directed to Plans Examiner Buddy Thibeault at Brian.Thibeault@dos.nh.gov .
- *Side-by-side Sprinkler Prop:* We are working with the NH Fire Prevention Society and the National Fire Sprinkler Association on procuring a side-by-side residential sprinkler prop for the state. When it becomes available we will let departments know.
- *Hazardous Materials:* We will be meeting with the statewide Hazmat collaborative (comprised of representatives of all teams, the NHSP EOD, and the 12th CST) to solicit input into what they need from the state. We will also solicit input from other stakeholders, including the Fire Chiefs, regarding the FMO Hazmat Coordinator Position.
- *Social Media/Public Outreach:* 28 Twitter and Facebook Posts. These posts reached 59,147 people with 22 new followers.
- *CO and Fire Safety:* The Vermont and NH Fire Safety and Carbon Monoxide Awareness and Prevention Summit will be held in Lebanon on November 5th and 6th. This is a free event which focuses on preventing death and injuries, specifically pertaining to Vermont and NH. The registration is open for this event, for more details contact our Public Education Section.
- *Fire Prevention Week:* This year, Fire Prevention Week is scheduled for October 6 through 12. In preparation for Fire Prevention Week, NH FMO public educators will be connecting with local fire departments to drop off calendars, provide posters advertising FPW, along with a newsletter. For departments having local FPW events the newsletter will provide information about how the FMO will help advertise the event on our website, through social media and also about a Facebook Live drawing with Sparky and the Fire Marshal for departments to win a FPW banner. We will be coordinating with the Governor's Office to schedule the proclamation signing.
- *State Fire Marshal's Award of Excellence* Has a student within your community used their education and knowledge to help prevent a possible fire and life incident by seeking out the appropriate assistance to insure that the situation is safer? Has a student within your community responded appropriately during an emergency, by demonstrating key fire and life safety behaviors; dialing 911 to report an incident and calmly providing information to a dispatcher; or performed a lifesaving medical maneuver? The ***State Fire Marshal's Award of Excellence in Fire & Life Safety*** program recognizes New Hampshire students

in grades prekindergarten through high school that do an outstanding act in the area of Fire and Life Safety that benefits the lives and wellbeing of those around them. We want to recognize these home town heroes!

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Pendergast)

Logistics-

A few out-of-service announcements:

The Concord drill yard pump house is having some work done. It appears there is an issue with bearings. Water supply is not an issue as we are now using the drill yard hydrant system.

The North Country air trailer is back in service.

The North Country Burton facility hydrant prop is now in service as well as the 4 LED light towers to allow for safer night-time operations.

Nashua Fire Department is now the latest host site for teleconferencing equipment. We now have the ability for remote education through this system. They are on the schedule for an Instructor I program.

We have been notified of our 2018 AFG Award for just under \$ 400,000. We will be replacing the liner of the burn rooms in the A building, replacing 30 of our oldest SCBA cylinders, purchasing a 60,000 pound haul truck and replacing our pediatric hi fidelity simulation mannequin.

Programs-

We had the final interview for the Coordinator of the EMS Simulation training program. We hope to have that program back in service in the coming weeks.

Three offerings of Firefighter I have just begun for the fall; Rye, Bethlehem and Concord.

There are 2 Firefighter II programs starting this fall. The evening Concord program is full and there are 1 or 2 seats available in the Weds./Sat. day time program.

September 14, the Bureau of EMS is hosting our quarterly NCCP Continuing Education Series to assist EMTs with the proper credits to recertify their registration and license as well, we are hosting the NH 2019 Trauma Conference on September 26 and 27 with seats available.

Fall CPAT is scheduled for September 16. We invite all Fire Chiefs or Chief officers to attend, to meet the candidates and recruit for any openings on your departments.

Recruit school

We are now in week 8 of the summer Recruit Program. We continue to train the 27 recruits who started on day 1. We are planning the graduation for Friday, Sept. 27 at 6:00.

Budget-

The Fiscal Committee and G and C approved our request for a \$50,000 advancement of funds. This will allow us to maintain our rigorous fall program schedule despite the Continuing Resolution. This additional money expires on September 30.

Other news-

On August 15, Commissioner Quinn and AC Plummer toured our drill yard, firehouse and class and dorm buildings. We discussed new equipment and apparatus purchases, further equipment and building needs, and some current and anticipated challenges with classroom space, parking lot space and office space. The Commissioners were able to observe the recruit class in action on the drill yard as well as address the recruits during their lunch break. We appreciated their time and show of support for our Division!

We have instituted an easy-to-access student evaluation form in an online format. This was one of our initiatives in our Customer Service Plan. We are eliminating the paper evaluations and staff will now have the ability to monitor in real-time, the feedback that students are giving us.

In the first 3 weeks we received 164 student evaluations. With the question "Rate your overall experience for this course" we received 4.65 out of 5 for a score.

Kim Mattill from the Bureau of EMS has retired as of August 30 after decades of service to the Bureau and NH EMS.

Bureau of EMS – (Justin Romanello) – (In Director's report)

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – no report

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper)

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Allard) (No report)

Forests and Lands – Chief Sherman

Fire activity has picked up out west, specifically California. We helped fill out a Maine crew this past weekend with 4 NH firefighters.

Forest Ranger for District 12, Luc Perreault has graduated from the Police Academy and is

now working in his district in Grafton County.

New VFA Grant applications have been sent out and are due by September 30th. If you are planning on applying for this 50/50 grant, make sure your application is submitted. Contact your Ranger if you have any questions about the grant.

Work continues with the fire towers capital improvement projects. Oak Hill fire tower is having the final work finished up. Kearsarge fire tower has been demolished and the cab replacement is well under way. The last project scheduled is Milan Hill fire tower which is planned to be completed next spring.

Both the FEPP and FFP programs continue to provide opportunities for communities to request and receive assignment of wildland fire apparatus and equipment. Please contact Firefighter Property Coordinator Rick Todd at (603) 271-3472 (Bear Brook Office), (603) 892-5088 (Cell Phone) or via email at Richard.Todd@dncr.nh.gov.

We have recently secured a 2002-2005 ALF structural engine with a 1500 gpm pump and 750 gal. tank, formerly used at Otis AFB. If your community is interested, please contact Rick Todd soon as we plan to award it in September.

Building Code Review Board – (Chiefs Powers/Tetreault) (No report)

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (No report)

Board of Fire Control – Chief Andrus / Chief Clark No reports

Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) (no report)

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – Meeting September 27.

New England Division of the IAFC – (no report)

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Carrier reported that they are moving forward with the merger. The lawyers are working at the process now. Conference call coming up Monday or Tuesday.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie) – (no report)

Old Business –

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

- Ralph Sanders of NE Marine and Industrial spoke on the importance of checking the ice rescue suits before winter.
- He spoke of the new breathable material for water rescue suits.

Chief Jones spoke of the amendment to the fire code on solar panels. He is looking for input on the 50% coverage for one and two family dwellings. Deputy Toomey spoke of the working group that is seeking input in this area. A MOTION (Walker/Lyon) to support the amendment to allow coverage of up to 50% of the roof with solar panels with space from the ridge line, carried with amendment.

The next meeting will be held at the Town Tavern in Hudson on Thursday, October 10 at 1700 hours.

A MOTION to adjourn, carried at 1047 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.
Executive Director/Secretary, NHAFC

September 12, 2019