

**NHFOA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 21, 2017**  
**The Lafond Residence, Bedford, NH**

Meeting called to order at 6:58 p.m. by President Delois

**In Attendance:**

President Jeff Delois, President-Elect Ron Sevigny, Secretary Jason Patch, Treasurer Jim Presher, Councilors Mike Lafond, Kevin Bolduc, Mike Grondin, Greg Sarette, Kevin Maes.

**Absent:**

Chairman Trask, Commissioner Clark, Councilors Chuck Robert, Dick Tracy.

1) Secretary's Report:

A motion was made by Councilor Grondin to approve the minutes from the 8/24/17 council meeting and it was seconded by President-Elect Sevigny. The motion passed unanimously and the 8/24/17 minutes were approved.

2) Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Presher presented his report which was sent out to the council in advance of the meeting. He outlined the deposits and expenditures made since our last meeting. We have an ending balance of \$10,958.38 in the general fund as of 9/15/17.

A check was received for \$639.92 from Embroid Me which accounts for 7% of the total purchases made by the membership on 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary apparel.

A motion was made by Councilor Sarette to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented by Treasurer Presher. This motion was seconded by President-Elect Sevigny and it passed unanimously.

3) Commissioner's Report:

a) Correspondence:

1. Troy Hogg – Request for Inactive Status as he has moved to Old Orchard Beach, ME.
2. John Egan – Request for Inactive Status due to work obligations and to spend more time with his family.

4) Old Business:

a) 75<sup>th</sup> President's Reception:

Treasurer Presher has received money for ticket sales from Councilor Tracy and President-Elect Sevigny. There is nothing further to report at this time.

b) Tabled Amendment to NHFOA Bylaws / Meeting Requirements:

This motion was likely tabled because the membership did not understand the reasoning behind it. Councilor Sarette stated that there are a lot of questions regarding the intent of the policy and steps that will need to be taken in order to meet the requirement. According to several members of the association that he has spoken to the motion has come across as vague and a recommendation was made to present something more concrete. There was agreement across the board that the assignment has to meet the intent of the weekly meetings. That would mean that the assignment better both the official and the association.

This is going to be tabled again until the October council meeting.

c) President Delois – Meeting with Jeff Collins, NHIAA:

President Delois met with Jeff Collins of the NHIAA for approximately an hour and ten minutes on 9/13/17. This was open meeting with a genuine interest from the NHIAA to hear our concerns. Mr. Collins stated that the contract that we are being asked to sign was originally set in motion in 2013. He felt that the NHFOA was leading the way on the majority of the issues outlined. They would like all of the officiating boards to have a ranking system to place the most qualified people working playoff games. There is no truth to the annual rumor that the NHIAA is looking to become a “super assigner” for all sports officials in the state.

Mr. Collins stated that the NHFOA is what he would all of the other organizations to be when it comes to background checks/compliance. He felt that our organization would likely be fine if officials have one background check. It would meet the monitoring requirement and there is no need to conduct them every year as long as we sign an affidavit indicating that our officials remain in compliance with NHIAA guidelines. President-Elect Sevigny inquired as to whether or not “background check” was defined. President Delois said that no such definition was provided. The NHIAA bylaws state that they may reject an association’s choice of Supervisor of Officials. Mr. Collins said that any change in the bylaws starts with the football committee and the NHFOA is represented in this group. President Delois said that there is concern regarding the stipulations in the contract that relate to the relationship between the NHFOA and NHIAA. No concessions were made with respect to the wording of the contract and we were invited to reach out to Mr. Collins to discuss any additional concerns. There is no rush to get the contract signed as our season is nearly at the halfway point. There didn’t seem to be any sense of urgency on the NHIAA’s part for us to execute the contract.

It may not be in our best interest to align ourselves with other organizations if the NHFOA is currently seen as the standard. We are going to table this discussion for the October meeting.

5) New Business:

a) Testing Procedures:

In response to Commissioner Clark's recent email regarding failed exams, Councilor Bolduc reached out to Mechanics Supervisor Stan Marro to discuss alternatives. He stated that they would like to see the number of exam attempts reduced from five to two in order to force officials to get into the book. Councilor Bolduc feels that if we take away the "safety net" of five exam attempts then the membership will likely put the effort in to pass it on the first try. Councilor Grondin asked about the testing procedures and if it is administered by the NHIAA. President Delois and President-Elect Sevigny said that the test is formed by Steve Hall and that the NHIAA does not set the boundaries. Failure to pass exams affects your membership classification. The NHFOA bylaws state that members need to average 90% or higher on Exam 1, Exam 2 and the Mechanics Exam. We will need to make the wording of the classification chart coincide with the bylaws regarding the exam requirements. The council feels that members who cannot mathematically qualify for a 90% average prior to Exam 2 should be suspended in accordance with the NHFOA bylaws.

b) John Clark Award Nominees:

This is going to be tabled until the October meeting.

c) Shorts Policy:

Councilor Bolduc was asked if shorts were allowed to be used in a varsity game pending a crew vote. It was confirmed by the council that this is the case. He said that the NHFOA Uniform Policy needs to be updated to reflect this. Councilor Lafond stated that if something is not listed in the NHFOA Uniform Policy it is listed in the Officials' Manual. The council agrees that the NHFOA Uniform Policy needs to be cleaned up to address the use of shorts in a varsity game.

d) 2" Wide Stripes:

Councilor Sarette addressed the potential for 2" striped shirts when we address the NHFOA Uniform Policy. President Delois said that this cannot be a priority for us right now and recommends that we push discussion on this off to January of 2018.

e) Medical Coverage:

President-Elect Sevigny wished to address the email sent out by Commissioner Clark with respect to medical coverage for football events. Commissioner Clark has asked Mr. Collins of the NHIAA for confirmation that medical personnel coverage becomes the responsibility of the host school once they are confirmed to be on site during the pre-game meeting with the head coach. We will await further word from Commissioner Clark.

f) Black 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Polo Shirts:

Questions have come from the membership pertaining to the use of the black 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary polo shirts for the month of October as well. This is going to be denied

as the council approved the use of the shirt for September only. Councilor Lafond asked if the membership could vote in the use of the polo shirt in if there is a quorum at a future business meeting. President Delois doesn't believe that this could be brought to a membership vote and that it would be a decision of the council.

g) Videos Shown at Recent Local:

President-Elect Sevigny discussed videos that were shown at all five local meetings. While there was discussion on the plays themselves he felt that the primary responsibility of each official was left up in the air. President Delois felt that if the teaching point was increased communication amongst the crew then it was showing them.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Sarette and seconded by Councilor Maes. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. Our next meeting will be held on October 26, 2017 at Newmarket Housing Authority.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Patch, NHFOA Secretary