

**NHFOA Executive Council
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2017
at Newmarket Housing Authority**

Meeting called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Chairman Trask

In Attendance:

Chairman Tod Trask, President Jeff Delois, President-Elect Ron Sevigny, Commissioner Ernie Clark, Secretary Jason Patch (by phone), Treasurer Jim Presher, Councilors Kevin Bolduc, Greg Sarette, Michael Lafond, Mike Grondin, Kevin Maes, Dick Tracy, Chuck Robert.

1. Acceptance of March Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilor Lafond to approve the minutes from the 3/23/17 council meeting and it was seconded by Councilor Grondin. Councilor Sarette inquired about a discussion regarding the apprentice program that did not appear in the minutes. All discussion on this topic had been tabled until April due to the absence of the Apprentice Chair. The motion passed unanimously and the March 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 \$17,371.65 in the general fund as of 4/10/17.

A motion was made by Councilor Lafond to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented by Treasurer Presher. This motion was seconded by Councilor Grondin and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer Presher has purchased the training software and will be sending all of the information and access instructions on to the local meeting coordinators.

He presented a breakdown of expenses that he is looking to be reimbursed for. This includes payment to Get it Right Enterprises (training software) of \$674.91, Office Supplies (\$39.87) and Postage (\$25.52) for a total of \$740.30.

A motion was made by Chairman Trask to reimburse Treasurer Presher the requested amount of \$740.30. This motion was seconded by Councilor Lafond and it passed unanimously.

3. 2017 Apprentice Program:

Apprentice Chair Shaun Bean was in attendance to discuss the 2017 NHFOA apprentice program. The program will run from 8/30/17 – 11/1/17 at Bow High School with

meetings going from 7:00 – 9:00. There are a total of three returning apprentices who will have provisional status for the upcoming season. He has received a total of 12 inquiries and one of them (Scott Hazzard) has already submitted his application and NHFOA dues. Many of the inquiries that he is taken in have been from former players and coaches.

Shaun will be working closely with the Mechanics Committee Chair Stan Marro to develop additional training in this area as well.

Councilors Bolduc and Sarette asked about the possibility of bringing an additional location to the southern part of the state. Councilor Bolduc said that he had received some interest from potential candidates but they would not come on board if they needed to travel to Bow for weekly meetings. It was mentioned that our numbers dropped in our apprentice program last year and that the location might have had something to do with it. Shaun Bean asked that we not look at one year's worth of data and said that officials need to travel for games and meetings as it is. It is part of the commitment that they make when deciding to join the program. He asked that the council and the entire membership support the officials in the apprentice program by providing constructive feedback and keeping things positive.

Commissioner Clark suggested that we could look into assigning mentors to each candidate who could periodically accompany them to the meetings in Bow. The possibility of bringing back mentor crews for sub-varsity games was also raised and it may be considered. With respect to running satellite locations for the apprentice program he feels that it would be counterproductive to split up into smaller groups. The information that is being given to the apprentices should be consistent and come from the Apprentice Chair.

There was discussion about possibly having our apprentices / provisionals involved in some way with the CHaD East-West game on 6/30/17. They could attend and watch the game with playoff-level officials who can provide feedback on the responsibilities of their positions. We also talked about setting up a table at this game or at college fairs to gain interest in the association.

4. Commissioner's Report:

a. Recent SOC Meeting:

Commissioner Clark attended an SOC meeting on 4/13/17. We were the only group in attendance that didn't feel the need to discuss the current fee structure. It is ultimately the responsibility of each association commissioner to determine which officials are capable of working at each level.

Discussion was brought up by other associations with respect to assigner's fees. There used to be a "supervisor's fee" in place for \$2,000.00 but it has been

replaced with an “assigner’s fee” of \$65.00 per schedule. There appears to be an effort being made to align this cost with the rate of a varsity game fee which is currently \$86.00.

There was no indication that the NHIAA is looking to take over the handling of the background check process anytime in the near future. The council discussed the possibility of eliminating our own requirement of performing these every other year. We may consider doing background checks on new officials only but this will require an amendment to the association bylaws. A proposal will be written and presented to the membership at our next business meeting.

b. Council / Commissioner Event:

Commissioner Clark is proposing that we hold a gathering for the council and special invited guests including past commissioners and officials that could provide entertaining stories to help us chronicle/memorialize our 75-year history. We would look to take a video recording of this event and then pare it down for a presentation at our 75th Anniversary gathering in December. It is recommended that this be held at some point in June so that we could get to work on the video as it will take time to finish it. We are going to target a date of 6/10/17 and check on availability for venues in the Manchester area. We would be looking for council members to sponsor a guest and to transport them to the event if necessary. Commissioner Clark will be looking to secure past rosters and contact information.

c. Commissioner’s Authority / Meetings:

A somewhat lengthy discussion was held regarding the Commissioner’s authority to allow for makeup credit of missed meetings. The consistent theme was that special circumstances need to be addressed before it becomes an issue at the end of the season. Commissioner Clark would like to find a way to work with officials that have extenuating circumstances that prevent them from fulfilling the meeting requirement. It was brought up that if we are expecting apprentices to fulfill their commitment then the same should hold true for patched officials. Councilor Lafond has offered to hold a class on an alternate day for officials that cannot make any of the local meeting days. He doesn’t feel that any requirement would be as beneficial as a local meeting due to the interaction that takes place along with the videos/software. A recommendation was made for officials to make up meetings within two weeks if circumstances warrant. Any consideration will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and should not be used as an alternative without cause being shown. Commissioner Clark is going to draft a formal proposal to the bylaws and will present it to the council at the May meeting. This will be placed on the May agenda.

d. Availability Deadline Proposal:

Commissioner Clark will be drafting a proposal to the bylaws which will make the "Ready to Assign" deadline 5/31/17. Schedules are being sent in by schools earlier and earlier each season. Officials also want their schedules earlier so that they can plan their fall season accordingly. Moving the date to 5/31/17 will assist Commissioner Clark in beginning work on the assigning earlier than he normally would. This will be placed on the May agenda.

5. Old Business:

a) 75th Anniversary Items:

Councilor Bolduc advised that the NHFOA 75th Anniversary store is up and running. He has received some feedback that officials are going to be less likely to buy the items if they are not able to wear them on the field or for arrival to games this season. There is a package available in the store which provides a pullover jacket, polo shirt and hat for \$66.00. This will be up and running until 7/14/17 and there is a guarantee that orders will arrive in time for the start of the season. The council is going to approve the use of the polo shirt for the month of September for arrival to varsity game sites if worn with dress pants and dress shoes. The entire crew will not need to have purchased a shirt in order for individual crew members to wear them. The embroidered pullover jacket and hat (white and black) can be worn throughout the season.

b) Banquet Info:

Councilor Robert stated that the logistics of this event are being worked out. The committee is throwing around some ideas for guest speakers, keepsakes / giveaways, photos, etc. He is recommending that we go with the buffet option which has a cost of \$36.48 per person all in. We will also need to determine who will be considered an "honoree" vs "past official" for the purposes of ticket cost. This can be discussed further at the May meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Lafond and it was seconded by President Delois. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. Our next meeting will be held on May 25 at 6:00 in Nashua – Site TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Patch, NHFOA Secretary