

NH Fire Standards and Training Commission**MEETING MINUTES** (Approved)**May 2, 2024**

9:30AM – **Dormitory Building, Classroom 5 & 6**

Please note the changes in the agenda in bold red.

FST Commission members present:

Jeffry Beard, Allan Clark, Don DeAngelis, Frank Fraitzl, Wayne Grudzein, Neil Irvine, Ronald Sebastian, Steven Sherman, Jason Smedick, Sean Toomey, Christina Wilson

FST Commission members not present:

Robert Field, Eric Wilking

Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS Staff:

Justin Cutting, Max Dodge, Jeffrey Phillips, Crystal Tuttle

Guests present: Troy Brown, Ken Jones, John Keller

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. Membership

Nomination of John Keller (FIOANH) in process at the Governor' office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made (DeAngelis/Irvine) to approve the March 7, 2024 minutes. All in favor. None opposed.

II. REPORTS

Item 1. Questions/comments regarding reports (Division, EMS, CB, FMO, Forest Protection, Curriculum).

➤ Division Report-

- The Division received a letter from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation that Jeffrey Whitcomb's name will be on the National Memorial on May 3rd & 4th of 2025.
- G&C approved more funding for the Bethlehem facility, and contracts are being drawn up now. Construction documents are anticipated to be finished in July and approved in November at G&C. Accommodations will be made for training during construction.

- FMO-
 - The FMO office is emphasizing fire safety messaging after several deadly fires in the State.
 - FMO is also closely monitoring AFG grants and infrastructure grants available. FMO is also monitoring OSHA requirements.
- Forests and Lands-
 - Focusing on spring warden trainings and wildland fire trainings. Administrative rules are up for renewal, so public hearings will be held in the summer.
- Coordinating Report- Nothing to report.

Item 2. Waiver Report-

- Richard Wood of Keene for 702.01, and Francis Fraitzl of New Boston for 702.01 waivers accepted.
- Vice Chair Fraitzl asked that Item One from the Old Business section of the agenda be discussed here to accommodate guests.
- Chief Ken Jones of Meredith applied for a waiver for the CPAT requirements but was denied based on 704.02 (c) due to the 30-day time restriction stated in rule. Due to a clerical error several years ago, Chief Jones was unaware of this requirement in 2008. Director Cutting has asked the Commission to grant this waiver.
- **A motion was made (Clark/Irvine) to retroactively grant the waiver for 702.01 for Chief Ken Jones time of appointment as Chief of Meredith Fire. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.**

Item 3. Legislative Report – The Division is tracking several bills as the session continues.

- FMO State Fire Code update progressing and tracking some bills concerning lithium batteries and cancer screenings.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES**Item 1. Administrative Rules Sub-Committee –**

- The committee has focused on revocation of certificates and hiring requirements for both career and call/volunteer members.
- A discussion was held about the differences between a license and a certification, and the lack of guidance for communities who hire call/volunteer members.

Item 2. Curriculum Review Sub-Committee –

- Appointments for the visiting committee for the Inspector program are as follows:
 - Biron, Burrage, Challinor, Eastman, Loutrell, Rapp, Stanchina, and alternates Wheeler and Wyman were approved.
 - Discussed improving the consistency of curriculum development, instructional delivery, and program continuity as staff change over time.

Item 3. Visiting Committees

- The Hazmat awareness portion is completed, and work is progressing on the operations portion. A curriculum will be prepared for the commission over the summer, and ready to be presented at the September meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Administrative Rules (recruitment & retention related) were sent to the Commissioner's legal department and some slight wording changes were made.

A motion was made (Clark/Wilson) to accept proposed amendments to 701.01 (3), 701.02 (2), and Fire 101.18 administrative rules. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS**VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER****VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made (Sebastian/Smedick) – to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 am, passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: September 5, 2024

(Respectfully Submitted by Crystal Tuttle)