



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 224-7867 | www.nhacc.org

Minutes of the NHACC Annual Business Meeting November 2, 2019

Present: Board - Bruce Allen (President), Zach Boyajian (Vice President), Jim Owers (Treasurer), Katherine Stuart (Secretary), Lisa Morin, Kristen Murphy, David Nieman, Kathy Schillemat, Jennifer Beck, Larry Spencer and Lesley Johnson

Staff - Barbara Richter (Executive Director), Linda Griebisch (Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant)

Call to order by President Bruce Allen at 8:40 am

President's Remarks Bruce Allen began the annual meeting by welcoming member conservation commissions and recognizing current serving and departing board members.

Consent Agenda (Bruce identified that the consent agenda would review standard business items followed by one vote from all conservation commission members)

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Business Meeting were reviewed, no comments or questions.

Financial/Treasurer's Report. The NHACC Profit/Loss Prev Year Comparison May 2018 through April 2019, available in the attendee packet also reviewed. No comments/questions.

Nominating Committee: Zach Boyajian presented the report of the nominating committee and recommended the following new board member with term to expire in 2022: Cris Blackstone (Newmarket). Board members continuing in their terms are Bruce Allen (Springfield), Lisa Morin (Belmont), Jennifer Beck (Wilton), David Nieman (Goffstown), Kathy Schillemat (Nelson) and Larry Spencer (Holderness). The nominating committee also recommended the following as board member officers: President: Zach Boyajian (Chichester), Vice President: Lesley Johnson (Surry), Treasurer: Jim Owers (Concord), and Secretary: Kristen Murphy (Dover). He also proposed the 2020 Nominating Committee: Zachary (Chair), Kristen, and Larry.

Bruce moved that the consent agenda be approved by conservation commission members present. The motion passed unanimously and Bruce handled the President's gavel to Zach Boyajian, the new NHACC President of the Board.

Executive Director's Report.

Barbara reviewed the highlights of 2019 NHACC accomplishments including supporting 217 conservation commissions in New Hampshire. Several forums and trainings were sponsored, some in cooperation with University of New Hampshire and the Northern Forest Center. It was an active year in the legislature and Barbara highlighted numerous events and engagements in the legislature on wetlands, current use taxes, land use changes, effective local management on resource issues, wildlife, residential and commercial development, LCHIP, solar, non-native species, OHRV use, plastics and much more. She encouraged town

conservation commissions to be engaged in legislative proposals (and follow NHACC e-news) to be informed on emerging conservation issues. She felt that as a result of the new Wetlands Rules, becoming effective December 2019, that we now have a stronger relationship with NHDES and that the new rules were positively influenced by the active participation of CC's (more than 30) in the rule-making. By working together in concert with NHACC, conservation commissions can have a stronger voice in the policies being developed by agencies and the legislature.

Barbara thanked the NHACC Board, meeting presenters and business sponsors for supporting NHACC and helping bring education and information to the annual meeting. Barbara finally thanked all the conservation commission members that make a difference in New Hampshire in protecting our clean water, clean air, scenic vistas, non-native species, pollinators, trails and much more. As she said, "Together we can accomplish much more, effect change on the local and state level, and build strength in solidarity".

New President's Report.

Zach talked about how each of us in our volunteer roles can effect change, how boards need to connect to training and tools, how towns reflect the diversity of many walks of life, and the need to engage on science and technology in our roles on CC's. One of NHACC's goals will be to expand our ability to connect and engage with diverse interests. Zach also said NHACC is trying something new at the annual meeting lunch this year by setting up topic tables, "Birds of a Feather" for some tables to connect on topics of particular interest. He also said NHACC is hosting a wrap-up session 3:30-4:00 pm to have some CC members share their experience of the meeting, aha moments, lessons learned and what they are taking back to their commissions. Also at the conclusion of the conference, a video that is being photographed throughout the day by a Keene State College photographer, will be presented capturing many moments of speakers and participants.

Zach concluded by presenting Jennifer Beck (Moderator) and the topic she is facilitating on "The Nature Economy: Balancing Development and Natural Resources" with the following panel:

Robert Scott, NH DES Commissioner
Shannon Rogers, Nature Based Economic Development Specialist, UNH Extension
Harry Viens, NH State Representative and Center Harbor Conservation Commission
Steve Whiteman, Resilience Planning and Plymouth State University

Respectfully Submitted by Outgoing Secretary

Katherine W. Stuart