

## **NHFOA Council Meeting**

**8/26/2021**

**Concord, NH**

### **Attendance**

#### **Officers**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Smith (Chairman)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Tracy (President)  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Patch (President-Elect) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ernie Clark (Commissioner) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Presher (Treasurer)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Brownley (Secretary)          |

#### **Council**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Parkin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Redman Jr.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Finkle | <input type="checkbox"/> Kyle Scofield               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Parslow        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Cherbonneau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Sarette           |  |

Additional attendees: None

Meeting called to order by Chairman Smith at 6:32 P.M.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Presher provided the members of the council with a copy of his report and most recent bank statement in advance of the meeting so that everyone had ample time to review. He noted that we have an outstanding credit with Red River in Concord in the amount of \$382.50. President-Elect Patch made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and it was seconded by Councilor Finkle. Chairman Smith suggested that the association work to build up the scholarship fund so that we can be prepared to issue future scholarships. We should be prepared in the event that the NHIAA increases the number of divisions in the future, etc. We will discuss fundraising opportunities at a future meeting. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Commissioners Report:**

Commissioner Clark reported that some of the schools have notified him that officials will not have access to locker rooms for the upcoming season. For schools that follow this procedure, members of the NHFOA will still be required to arrive on-site 90 minutes prior to the start of a varsity contest.

### **Old Business:**

- 1) **NHIAA Meeting:** President Tracy and Councilor Smith met with Jeff Collins to review the contents of the letter that we had sent to the NHIAA. He is trying to understand why our numbers are so low and based on the survey results, financial impact is one of the primary reasons. Many of our officials feel that they are deserving of greater compensation based on the requirements of a football official, mileage, etc. President Tracy didn't get the sense that the NHIAA is interested in changing officials' compensation by sport. Mr. Collins has compared the compensation of officials in NH to other New England states and some pay more, some pay less. It was mentioned that mileage is also a factor as the NHFOA covers the entire state. Overall, it was a good share of information and Mr. Collins invited us back to discuss this further. Later this year, the payment schedule is expected to be set for the next three years by the NHIAA. Commissioner Clark previously submitted a proposal to the NHIAA regarding mileage payment and we have not received a response to date.
- 2) **Passed Amendments / Calendar Updating:** We will ask Secretary Brownley to update the corrected amendments and work in conjunction with John Reardon to have them posted to the NHFOA website.
- 3) **Member Requirements:** President-Elect Patch indicated that he is waiting on four background checks as there is a backlog with the NH State Police. The members that we are waiting on have not been assigned and all have indicated that they submitted the paperwork. One of the reports that we received included a misdemeanor charge from 1996. We discussed the contents of the report without identifying the individual by name and it was decided that he meets the criteria to officiate given the minor nature of charges and clean record since the date of incident over 20 years ago.

### **New Business:**

- 1) **Waivers:** The NHFOA Council has received three waiver requests with respect to meeting requirements for the 2021 season. President-Elect Patch made a motion to grant the waivers and it was seconded by Councilor Redman. There was discussion on each of the requests before the council and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2) **Online Meeting Feedback:** Treasurer Presher indicated that the feedback that he has received has been mostly positive. The membership in general seems to enjoy lesser travel in meeting the requirements. Councilor Parkin has received feedback from members on the seacoast and it has been beneficial for them to interact with officials in other areas of the state for the online meetings. It also appears that there are more members contributing to the conversation than there would be at an in-person local. President-Elect Patch raised concerns with some officials (unnamed) that clearly log in and don't remain present for the meeting. Some cameras are left on with nobody in front of them, discussions are going on that don't involve the meeting with members forget to mute themselves and there are occasions when we don't get a response when members are called on individually. He agreed that the online meetings are convenient but we also need to make sure that they serve the same purpose as they would in person.
- 3) **State Meeting Agenda:** President Tracy indicated that Rules Interpreter Steve Hall would be doing a presentation on penalty enforcement at the upcoming meeting. Chairman Smith will also reach out to Mr. Collins regarding our kickoff mechanics to make sure that we have the NHIAA's backing for 2021. An update will be provided to the membership. Councilor Cherbonneau suggested that we do a radio demonstration as well but felt that we may be best served pushing it off if there will be a lengthy presentation on penalty enforcement already.
- 4) **Re-Sending Information to Game Administration:** Once Chairman Smith receives approval from Mr. Collins, the Athletic Directors will once again be notified that the line-to-gain crews will remain on the home sideline for 2021.
- 5) **Post-Season Honors:** Commissioner Clark has received the list of postseason awards the former President Ron Sevigny provided to Secretary Brownley. The Union Leader is looking for nominees for the John R. Clark Award. President Tracy made a motion to nominate Tod Trask on behalf of the NHFOA. This motion was seconded by Councilor Finkle and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Clark will work with President-Elect Patch to compile a list of officials that have worked the Shrine Game and CHad East-West Game.

- 6) **Council Elections:** The council seats currently held by Mark Cherbonneau and Rick Parslow will be up for election in November. We will notify the membership in advance of the elections setting out the deadline to submit letters of intent.

Our next two meetings are on August 31, 2021 at Bow High School (State Meeting) and September 23, 2021 (Site TBD – Council).

With there being no additional business to come before the council, President-Elect Patch moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Redman. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned: 8:14 P.M.