

**NHFOA Executive Council
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2017
at Newmarket Housing Authority**

Meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Chairman Tod Trask

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

None

1. Acceptance of November Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by President Delois to approve the minutes from the 11/21/16 council meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark and it passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Presher presented his report which included a running tally of deposits and expenditures through 12/20/16. Our account has a current balance of \$19,482.06 as of the date of the meeting. A detailed breakdown of the 2016 budget was provided to the council. Our actual expenses were over budget due to the additional costs incurred for the background checks and purchase of the projectors.

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

Treasurer Presher will begin work on the 2017 budget.

3. Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Clark stated that we currently have 20 members with dues outstanding and the deadline was 12/1/16. Mike Blaze reached out and advised that he is not returning to the association as an active official. Steve Bracci has moved to Colorado.

Commissioner Clark met with Merrimack Head Coach Kip Jackson and it was very positive. One of the takeaways was a suggestion that we invite coaches and athletic directors to a meeting to show them what we do to prepare for the season and to cover the on field responsibilities for each position. The benefit would be to educate them on what we do as well as the areas of responsibility. Further discussion will come on

potential dates. We will want Steve Hall to be present to address any interpretation questions.

Commissioner Clark met with UNH Head of Kinesiology Erik E. Schwartz, Ph.D., A.T.C regarding our interpretation of targeting, spearing and head to head contact as well as the potential for an automatic ejection for first time offenders. It was explained to him that we want to protect players by properly enforcing the rules but it is very difficult to gauge intent in most cases.

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

4. Old Business:

a) 2016 Awards Distribution:

Plaques and banners were distributed to council members who will be bringing the awards to the schools being recognized. For the benefit of the new members of the council, a brief discussion ensued outlining how the winners were selected along with criteria.

5. New Business:

a) Council Meeting Decorum:

The council reviewed the document that was distributed by Chairman Trask. It should be considered as a guide for the responsibilities of a council member.

b) NHFOA Committee Members:

The following committee chairs were named for the 2017 season:

Uniform Committee: Kevin Bolduc

Mechanics Committee: Stan Marro

Assistant Chair of Mechanics Committee – TBA

Curriculum Committee – TBA

Apprentice Committee – Shaun Bean

75th Anniversary Committee – Chuck Robert and Dan O'Neil

There was discussion of involving the Mechanics Committee chair with the apprentice program in order to get new officials proper training from the start.

A suggestion was made that the same logo be used for all of the 75th anniversary apparel and other items. Councilor Bolduc will circulate draft pictures of the lapel pin and other items that were made with the proposed logo. These will be discussed at the February meeting.

Dan O'Neil is heavily involved with the planning of the 75th Anniversary President's Reception. The Puritan Backroom has been booked for Saturday, December 2, 2017 and we will need to reimburse Dan O'Neil for the deposit that he has paid to secure the facility. There was a discussion of possibly charging a nominal fee for members to help reduce the number of no-shows that had previously committed to attending. This will be discussed further at the February meeting.

c) Mechanics Observations:

Overall this was one of the best things to come out of the 2016 season. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback provided to us and we are going to move forward with it again this season. Stan Marro and Bill Main will be invited to the March meeting to discuss mechanics and the observation process in general. Commissioner Clark is going to put together some ideas on NHFOA potentially hosting scrimmages which will be used for our observations. Councilor Robert raised the possibility of utilizing the freshman jamboree so that we have two primary locations.

d) Membership Drive:

Questions were raised as to why our apprentice numbers are so low compared to other sports. Various opinions were put out including the overall time commitment, location and poor advertising of the apprentice program. We are going to push this through social media and our website. The council agreed that advertising in newspaper doesn't bring us any benefit.

Our goal should be to secure a minimum of 10 first-year apprentices. A challenge should be made for each of our existing members to try and bring in one apprentice. We could also look to target youth football programs and former coaches. We need to find a way to keep the people engaged that contact us in the spring so that they want to proceed with the program when it starts.

e) 2017 Draft Calendar Review:

The 2017 NHFOA meeting calendar was reviewed and approved with some edits made to date errors on the original copy.

f) Other New Business:

Brian Snow has drafted proposed legislation regarding immunity for liability pertaining to sports officials. Councilor Maes attended the hearing and while it has some backing he doesn't think it will ultimately get through. The problem is that there are no specific examples of sports officials being sued in New Hampshire and there may be no need to search for a remedy for a problem that doesn't currently exist.

Commissioner Clark has requested that we consider purchasing a membership to Hudl when the budget is completed. This could be used as a teaching tool for our

officials and it will allow Ernie to have quick access to game film when the need arises.

There is a concern that some members are unable to make the required number of meetings yet want to officiate at the varsity level. The possibility of making up a class by completing evaluations for officials at two sub-varsity games was raised. This will be discussed further in February.

A motion was made by Chairman Trask to reimburse Steve Hall's expenses to Indianapolis for the NFHS rules committee meeting. This was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and it was approved unanimously.

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 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Patch, NHFOA Secretary