

**NHFOA Executive Council
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2017
at Bow High School**

Meeting called to order at 6:09 p.m. by President Delois

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

Commissioner Ernie Clark, Councilor Chuck Robert

1. Acceptance of February Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilor Lafond to approve the minutes from the 2/23/17 council meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and it passed unanimously.

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 \$17,351.52 in the general fund as of 3/13/17.

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

3. Correspondence:

a. Number of Playoff Officials:

An email came in from a member of the association asking about the possibility of using seven officials in the state championship games like we do in the CHAD and Shrine games. Councilor Maes asked if anyone has brought up the need to use more officials. President Delois is not aware of this request being made either inside or outside of our organization. It would ultimately be NHIAA's decision. Other sports (basketball, baseball, lacrosse, etc.) are increasing the number of officials for their championships. We will circle back with Ernie to see if he has had any further discussion with NHIAA on this topic. This will be added to the April agenda under Old Business so that he can weigh in.

b. Evaluations:

An email came in from a member of the association asking if the weekly evaluations would be used this season because he missed receiving feedback after each game. Ernie would make the decision as to whether or not we would bring this back or keep things as they are now. There have been challenges with this in the past including chasing down people to finish them, members providing negative feedback or identical scores that weren't beneficial. If members specifically request feedback we can possibly look into making arrangements for this to happen. All members are also evaluated as part of the observation process in August or September. Councilor Sevigny is going to provide a response to the email after the meeting.

4. 2017 Apprentice Program:

Shaun Bean and Mark Gregorakos are both unable to attend tonight. We will table discussion on the 2017 Apprentice Program until April. We have received one application for entrance into the program and we have a goal of bringing in 10-12 new officials this season. Secretary Patch also has three people interested in coming on board and he will provide their contact information to Shaun Bean.

A suggestion was made to possibly start the apprentice program a few weeks earlier or to use the East/West game as an opportunity to promote it. We could possibly set up a booth there if people have questions on what is involved with becoming a football official.

5. 2017 Mechanics / Observations:

Stan Marro and Bill Main were in attendance to discuss the progress being made by their committee. Their group has been holding online meetings since the beginning of the year and evaluations have been a primary topic. Last year we had five locations that we used and one of them (Exeter) didn't work for a variety of reasons.

The committee is interested in hosting a D2/D3 event on August 26 to give an additional evaluation opportunity. Councilor Tracy is asking if we bear any liability for the running the event. We might want to consider "sponsoring" it as an option instead. Our general liability insurance policy would cover the event if we choose to take it on, however.

The committee would like to use five locations if it is approved this year. If placed correctly from a geographical and logistical standpoint it would provide more than enough coverage and convenience for the membership.

A suggestion was made for the committee to come up with some formats that we can propose to the teams in advance. At the very least we can find out in advance which format they will be using so that we can adjust accordingly.

A proposed observation form was brought to the council for consideration. It provides more space for comments and feedback from the observer. There was very little negative feedback from our officials last year but Chairman Trask questions whether or not we should be providing observers with guidelines on what they should be looking for. Bill Main felt that this would be counterproductive to the process as a 20-year official will likely be observed differently than a first year official.

An idea was presented by Stan Marro to use the Manchester freshman scrimmage for apprentices only with five experienced officials being there to mentor them.

With respect to mechanics a suggestion is going to be made that we make an exception to go back to our old "out of bounds" signal. An exception that was eventually scrapped included wing officials making the call as to whether or not the ball is caught behind the line of scrimmage on a middle screen. This will continue to be the umpire's call.

Lastly – a suggestion was made to have members of the Mechanics Committee attend an apprentice meeting at least once per month to get them proper training.

6. Old Business:

a) 75th President's Reception:

Councilor Tracy is going to assist with the planning committee. Dan O'Neil is asking if any progress has been made on gathering contact information on our retired officials. Chairman Trask will reach out to Commissioner Clark to ask him for an update on this. A decision will be made on the meal choices at a later date.

b) 75th Anniversary Apparel / Logo / Memorabilia:

Roland, Fred, Kyle, Paul, Rick, Russ

Councilor Bolduc presented the council with quotes on apparel / memorabilia from EmbroidMe who is also willing to set up an online store for us at no charge. In addition, they will donate 7% of all sales back to the organization. The coins and lapel pins are in and samples were shown to the council. We will want the pullover jackets to only be available in one option if we are going to wear them on the field before the games.

The quotes include two \$75.00 set up charges. Our options for paying this include (a) Dividing the \$150.00 by the number of total orders and adding it on to each bill; (b) Paying the cost up front in full; or (c) Having EmbroidMe back the \$150.00 out of our 7% cut. A motion was made by Councilor Tracy to issue payment of the set up charges (\$150.00) to EmbroidMe. This was seconded by Councilor Bolduc and it passed unanimously.

We extended thanks to Councilor Bolduc and his committee of Roland St. Germain, Fred Russell, Kyle Snow, Paul Iaconis, Rick Brownley and Russ Smith for their work on this project.

c) Local Meeting Make Up:

This will be tabled until the April meeting due to Commissioner Clark's absence.

d) Status of Awards Distribution:

All of our sportsmanship and administrative awards have been distributed and all of the honorees were appreciative of the recognition and our efforts.

A motion to adjourn was made by President-Elect Sevigny and it was seconded by President Delois. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. Our next meeting will be held on April 27 at 6:00 at Newmarket Housing Authority.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Patch, NHFOA Secretary