

The Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2019

Call to Order: Roll Call

- Regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals was called to order at 1:02 pm in Room 206 of the Legislative Office Building (LOB) by Acting Chair, Jeri Zezula.

Members Present

- Marga Coulp – General Public
- Tom DeRosa – General Public
- Jennifer Eber – General Public
- Heather Faria, NH Federation of Humane Organizations
- Sheila Johannsen, Animal Control Officers Association of NH
- Gary Lambert – NH Sportsmen
- Sheriff Mike Moyer – NH Sheriff's Association
- Wendy Munroe – NH Veterinary Technician Association
- Representative John O'Connor (R-Derry) – NH House of Representatives
- Jane Barlow Roy – NH Veterinary Medical Association
- Julia Seeley – Secretary, National Humane Organization
- Tom Seymour – General Public
- Jeri Zezula – General Public

Members Absent

- Kristi Atherton – NH Farm Bureau Federation
- Senator Regina Birdsell (R-Hampstead) – NH State Senate
- Cynthia Collins – General Public
- George Cook – NH Musher's Association & Dog Owners of the Granite State
- Steven Crawford, State Veterinarian
- Patricia Morris, Chairperson & Equine Association
- Chief Dean Rondeau, NH Police Chiefs Association
- Steven Sprowl – Humane Cruelty Investigator

Public Present

- Jim Bouley - NH Veterinary Medical Association
- Marla Snow - Citizen

Review and Approval of October Minutes

- Representative O'Connor moved to approve the minutes from the November 18 meeting. Sheila seconded. All approved.
- **Next Steps:** Jeri to upload the November 2019 minutes to Commission website.

Recap/Follow Up from Last Meetings

Judicial Rules

- Jennifer said that the Judicial Rules Committee cancelled their December meeting. Their next meeting will be on January 10. They have received the Commission's proposed rules.
- **Next Steps:** Jennifer to provide an update during the January meeting.

Commission Manual Update

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- Jeri said the manual updates are in progress. The committee is using Box.com to make the changes, which includes updated to URLs as many websites have been renamed since the last version was written. The committee's goal is to review the draft manual revisions at the January meeting.
- **Next Steps:** Jeri and the committee to provide an update during the January meeting.

Commission Website & URL

- The nh.gov website has a Legislation webpage. Jeri polled the members if they would like the tracking spreadsheet to go there for them to review or if they would like it emailed. The decision was to email tracking spreadsheet pdf with the minutes and then again with the agenda.
- Jeri asked the NH.gov staff if we can add a resources page to the Commission website so we don't have a separate website/URL. Then we can reference the new URL in the revised manual.
- **Next Steps:** Jeri to provide an update on the website during the January meeting.

Spring Report to the Governor: Reception and Follow-Up

- Jeri will post the Governor's Report to the Commission website. Trish hand delivered the report to the Governor's staff, but no one got back to her with feedback.
- **Next Steps:** Trish to make an appointment with the Governor's Office in January to gather feedback on the report and will send Jeri the cover letter to add to the report before it's posted online.

Commission Roster

- Trish and Jeri are in the process of updating the Commission's membership contact information.
- **Next Steps:** Members to notify Trish and Jeri if updates are needed.

Cruelty Cases/Current News

- Oral arguments at the state Supreme Court for the State of New Hampshire v. Christina Fay case has been rescheduled to occur on February 12, time TBD.
- President Trump signed the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act (H.R. 724, S. 479).
- Heather does not have an update regarding whether charges will be brought in the Bradford case.
- Steven Sprowl absent from meeting due to an animal seizure.
- **Next Steps:** Members to send cruelty cases to Trish and Jeri for discussion at future meetings.

New Items

Vote on Retained Bills: HB 371, HB 376, and HB 501

- See voting spreadsheet attached to this email.
 - **Next Steps:** Julia to update voting spreadsheet with additional 2020 bills (see next section). Commission to vote on all additional meetings during the January meeting.
- HB 371: Relative to the definition of pet vendor
 - Majority/Commission Position = Oppose
 - **Next Steps:** Tom Seymour to send draft report to Trish and Jeri by 1/2.
 - Minority Position = Support
 - **Next Steps:** N/A - Representative O'Connor deferred to the Majority Report from the House Environment & Agriculture Committee.
- HB 376: Establishing a committee to study best practices for companion animal groomers
 - Majority/Commission Position = Support
 - **Next Steps:** Julia to send draft report to Trish and Jeri by 1/2.

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- Minority Position = Monitor
 - **Next Steps:** N/A – Monitor position is minority.
- HB 501: Using fees from registration of commercial animal food sellers to fund the cost of care program in the department of agriculture, markets, and food
 - Majority/Commission Position = Support
 - **Next Steps:** Tom DeRosa to send draft report to Trish and Jeri by 1/2.
 - Minority Position = Monitor
 - **Next Steps:** N/A – Monitor position is minority.

Select 2020 Bills for Tracking

- See updated 2020 Legislation spreadsheet – bills have been updated to include links to bill text. All bills marked “Yes” will be tracked by the Commission. These selections were based on a majority show of hands. Please note, “Yes” or “No” does not mean that the Commission supports or opposes the bills.
- **Next Steps:** Julia to distribute an updated spreadsheet once all the Senate bills have been posted online. Commission will vote on which additional bills will be tracked, if any. Jeri to confirm with Trish what the rule is for the Commission taking a position on bills that relate to wildlife cruelty.

Bill Tracking Spreadsheet

- Tom DeRosa will update and distribute a tracking spreadsheet for all selected 2020 bills.
- **Next Steps:** Commission to provide feedback on spreadsheet during the January meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals will be on Monday, January 27 at 1:00 pm in the Legislative Office Building (LOB) – Room TBD.

Gary moved to adjourn the meeting. Heather seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Julia Seeley, Secretary