

The Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals

Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2020

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 Chair, Patricia Morris.

Members Present

- George Cook – NH Musher's Association & Dog Owners of the Granite State
- Jennifer Eber – General Public
- Sheila Johannsen, Animal Control Officers Association of NH
- Gary Lambert – NH Sportsmen
- Patricia Morris, Chairperson & Equine Association
- Sheriff Mike Moyer – NH Sheriff's Association
- Wendy Munroe – NH Veterinary Technician Association
- Representative John O'Connor (R-Derry) – NH House of Representatives
- 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
- Marga Coulp – General Public
- Tom DeRosa – General Public
- Stephen Crawford, State Veterinarian
- Heather Faria, NH Federation of Humane Organizations
- Chief Dean Rondeau, NH Police Chiefs Association
- Jane Barlow Roy – NH Veterinary Medical Association
- Julia Seeley – Secretary, National Humane Organization
- Steven Sprowl – Humane Cruelty Investigator

Public Present

- None

Review and Approval of January Minutes

- George moved to approve the minutes from the January 27 meeting. Sheila seconded. All approved.
- **Next Steps:** Jeri to upload the January 2020 minutes to Commission website.

Recap/Follow Up from Last Meetings

Judicial Rules

- Per Jennifer: 1-31-20 voted down for permanent judicial rules re: animal cruelty law. Jan 2 2020 admin order. Judge King ordered RSA 644:8 – arraignment must be done within 14 days. Admin order 2020-02.
- **Next Steps:** Commission members to track courts that fail to follow this and then we can resubmit need for Judicial rules, which are stronger than Admin Order.
- How do we get this to the Courts attention? This should be automatic by the Court and not done upon motion from a party.

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Commission Manual Update

- Per Jeri: incorporated everything, George is working with Jeri on his section, Anthony Estes has offered to be our criminal law sounding board
- **Next Steps:** Jeri will work to get us out a new draft in the next week.

Commission Website & URL

- Question for Jeri: Where do we post the manual and resources, another place to consider posting the police academy website (login for private and also a public viewing). Mike confirmed that.
- **Next Steps:** Jeri will contact them, leave manual public but the resources – do we have 91-A issue?
- Need to find permanent home for the websites- link the resources to nh.gov from Jeri

Spring Report to the Governor: Reception and Follow-Up

- Nothing to report.

Cruelty Cases/Current News

- Nothing to report. Fay before Supreme Court earlier this month.

2020 Legislation

- Jeri walked through current status.
- Trish testified on behalf of Commission on HB 1560 and HB 1164.
- DAMF will need to promulgate rules for cost of care- will start that soon. What would the commission like to see for the 14 days? Rep. O'Connor mentioned that should be on hold- Back to Way and Means- budgetary- what about 501, could it kill HB4) would have to restart the budget conversation,
- Jennifer: How do we see if our votes/impact written testimony/positions?
- Recommendation for amendment (organizations, etc.)
- **Next Steps:** Legislative protocol (revisit in March) email to commission to review and update

The next regular meeting of the Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals will be on Monday, March 16 at 1:00 pm in the Legislative Office Building (LOB) – Room 206.

Mike moved to adjourn the meeting. George seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Morris and updated by Julia Seeley