

**NH Prescribed Fire Council**  
**Monday December 14, 2020 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom Video Conferencing**

Attendees: Zack Boyajian, Chair (NH Military Affairs and Veterans Services), Michael Crawford, vice-chair (TNC), Rebecca DiGirolomo (UNH Coop Extension), Steven Junkin (Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forest), Kathleen Errington (NHDES Air Resources), Tom Trask (NH DNCR), Henry Jones (NH Fish and Game), Bob Bale (Tall Timbers Research Station), John Neely (US Forest Service), Heidi Holman (NH Fish and Game), Art Canterbury (US Fish and Wildlife), Ralph Perron (US Forest Service), Jarred Jones (NH Military Affairs and Veterans Services)

**AGENDA:**

**Minutes:** Review and approval September 15, 2020 meeting minutes

**Review Shared a Type 6 engine Memo – Follow Up – Tom Trask, FPB and Mike Crawford, TNC**  
Subcommittee continues to review options for a shared Type 6 option for the Council. Tom and Mike met with Ossipee area fire departments to discuss shared engine concept. Center Ossipee expressed interest and is discussing liability concerns with insurance. Crawford presented a shared engine memo to the Council via email, the intent of the memo is to assist in the creation of an MOU. Zack Boyajian asked if a description of Federal Excess Personal Property and criteria could be added to the memo.

- John Neely and Zach Boyajian will look into other shared resource examples. Council discussed asking Center Ossipee to Join the Council.
- Heidi Holman can potentially write a proposal to Heritage for funding to outfit engine.
- Art Canterbury knows of an engine going up on GSA for FEPP. Art will send Tom Trask photos.

**Rx Council Website, Rebecca DiGirolomo, UNH Cooperative Extension**

Andy Fast is looking for a letter of support from the Council for a grant proposal. The grant will support research that will be looking at oak regeneration at the northern limits of oaks range and the use of prescribed fire. Council voted to submit a letter of support

Rebecca and Zack have been working together to review and update the Council website.

Working groups are in need of updates or should be removed.

- Rebecca will add Shared Resources Working Group and Additional Capacity Working Group
- Remove Legislation Working Group
- Keep Training Certification and Standards Working Group- State certification program is worth keeping because some Council members still maintaining state task books. Add or keep Heidi Holman, Tom Trask, John Neely, Art Canterbury and Zack. Zack will setup a working group meeting before next council meeting.
- Public Outreach Working Group- Rebecca DiGirolomo will replace Andy Fast. Zack will send Rebecca size for Rx panels to be reprinted
- Add Prescribed Fire Map Working Group-DiGirolomo, Crawford, Steve Junkin, Jarred Jones

**NH Rx Fire Survey, Rebecca DiGirolomo, UNH Cooperative Extension**

UNH Cooperative Extension is surveying towns throughout NH to determine if towns have interest in prescribed fire and what training is needed. A map will be created to show interested towns. Neely to send DiGirolomo GIS data collected.

**Garvin's Falls Concord Landowner Interest, Zack Boyajian, DMAVS**

Private landowner (abutter) interested in prescribed fire on Whittemore Parcel. Property (20 acre) is core area of pitch pine scrub oak woodland, landowner interested in making the area a research site. Zack would like to conduct a burn on the property in the near future. Property is located within a larger parcel owned by Eversource and National Grid Land. Zack plans to get fire department(s) and Cooperative Extension involved.

Concerns were expressed, project may take focus off of the broader conservation context of the Soucook River corridor and surrounding priority habitats.

### **NH Association of Conservation Commission Lunch and Learn January 27, 2021, Zack Boyajian, DMAVS**

Zack is currently the president of the board of directors. Zack and Tom Trask will be doing a lunch and learn about prescribed fire for the Commission. John Neely will share some slides for Zack's presentation. The meeting will be recorded and shared.

### **Round Table: Agency Rx Burn Season Plans and Training Opportunities**

- **TNC-S-130/190** back logged field day and we may have another training this year. We won't be burning in NH until fall. We have several burns planned in Ossipee Pine Barrens, Madison Town Forest and Pine River State Forest
- **UNH Cooperative Extension**-Planning phase of prescribed fire on a Grafton County Farm. Private landowner in Strafford is working with Fire Chief to burn a 4-acre wildlife opening. Discussion followed Rebecca's updated included, brochure for private landowners that walks folks through the steps needed and cost to conduct prescribed fire on private land. Firewise resources needed to hand out to private landowners.
- **NHDES Air Resources**- During ozone season we didn't see any increases in 2020. We haven't seen any PM exceedance going into the 2020 winter. Website DES updated-double check saved links.
- **Tall Timbers**-Working on a curriculum for fire practitioners who can't meet NWCG standards. Curriculum will be focused towards private landowners (land trust). How to light and manage a low complexity fire.
- **NH Fish and Game**- Will be contacting Council Members to help with kerner blue burns
- **US Fish and Wildlife**- Several online trainings, Rx-12,000 acres planned for the coming year throughout the region. Interagency program-ability to move resources for rx fire and suppression. Fish and Wildlife service has an approved private land agreement in place to lead burns on private lands.
- **Forest Society**- No current updates but available for assistants
- **DNCR**- Spring academy online possible. Available to assist where needed
- **Forest Service**-Cooperative burn in Eten, grassland burns. FS has the green light to burn during COVID after reviewing the combination of air quality and COVID occurrences. FS has a back log of burns from 2020. FS is now aloud to use AD's for Rx fire. John will send out training schedule to Council.
- **NH Military Affairs and Veterans Services**- Back log of units from 2020 planning for spring burn season

**Next Meeting: TBD**