

**NEW HAMPSHIRE PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**








Annual Committee Meeting  
*(Meeting called in accordance with RSA 160-C: 13)*  
September 29, 2020 2:00 PM  
NH Fire Academy Auditorium

Annual Meeting Minutes:

1) Call meeting to order / committee introductions:

*- Meeting called to order by Rep. Welch – Committee Chair at 2:02 PM.*

2) Quorum call:

<b>NH House of Representatives</b>	Rep. David Welch, Chair	
<b>NH Senate</b>	Senator Harold French	 Absent
<b>Fireworks Retailers</b>	Mrs. Sarah Bergeron	
	Mr. Jared Savineli	
<b>Consumer</b>	Mr. Shawn Allison	
<b>NH State Police</b>	Sgt. Jeffrey Dade	
<b>NH State Fire Marshal's Office</b>	State Fire Marshal Paul J. Parisi	

3) Approval of meeting minutes:

- *Minutes for the 2019 annual meeting were available at the time of the meeting.*
- *A motion was made by Sean Allison to accept the 2019 minutes as written; Sarah Bergeron seconded this motion.*

4) Election of Committee Chairperson:

- *Rep. Welch opened the annual election for a new Chairperson.*
- *A nomination was made by Jared Savineli, and seconded by Sarah Bergeron for Rep. Welch to continue as the Chairperson.*
- *There was a unanimous vote of the committee for Rep. Welch to continue as the Chairperson.*

5) Emergency Suspension / Removal Action of Permissible Fireworks:

- *The September 27, 2019 Emergency Removal Order of the Excalibur brand relocatable mortar shell kit was still in effect at the time of this meeting.*
- 6) Review of CPSC rules and standards governing consumer fireworks:
- *No changes have been made to the CPSC rules that would impact the status of NH's consumer fireworks RSA's.*
- 7) Public comment:
- *Deputy State Fire Marshal Danielle Cole reported that the FMO had repeatedly contacted the Consumer Product Safety Commission over the last year in order to find out of the status of the investigation into the Excalibur kits. The last contact revealed that the product was still under investigation and a final determination had not yet been made.*
  - *Deputy Cole also reported that there were no permissible firework products recalled in 2020. There were six lines of products that had been recalled in 2019; the names of these products were read.*
  - *Deputy Cole also reported that the number of permits for display shows that had come into the FMO were down over 75% due to the pandemic.*
  - *Marshal Parisi asked the board if he could give a report on the changes that had occurred in the FMO, which affected the fireworks industry, Chairman Welch was in agreement to this.*
  - *Marshal Parisi started by addressing the fact the Chris Wyman had retired from his position in the FMO as the fireworks inspector. He then mentioned that the FMO had undergone several organizational changes since the last meeting due to the pandemic and budget changes.*
  - *Marshal Parisi explained that Deputy Cole is currently overseeing and supervising the Fireworks Program. He mentioned that Inspectors Phil Biron and Tom Humphrey had been the field inspectors that had been interacting with the stores and shooters. He then gave an update that due to the loss of staff because of a budget reduction that those inspectors had been reassigned to the Building Safety and Construction Bureau. Marshal Parisi asked for patience and understanding from the store owners as the staff currently assigned to fireworks is limited.*
  - *Marshal Parisi mentioned that there had recently been a temporary ban on outdoor burning as a direct result of the extreme drought conditions in the state. He explained that there could be a temporary ban on the use of fireworks if drought conditions continued. He was asked if this meant that stores could not sell fireworks to which he stated that it did not affect product sales at fireworks stores. He reiterated that this was a temporary ban that was made in the best interest of safety for the public.*

- *Marshal Parisi stated that efforts had been made to provide financial relief to licensed fireworks shooters through an emergency order, which was submitted by the FMO to the governor's office. At the time of the meeting the order had not yet been issued but its intent was to delay the cost of obtaining a new license or the renewal of a license that had expired during the pandemic. Deputy Cole explained the specifics of the order.*
- *Deputy Cole also explained that the methods for conducting store inspections had undergone a change this year in both the clothing worn by the inspectors and how they identified themselves, as to not disrupt the store environment. The code standards to which the stores are inspected were provided in a checklist style sheet to store owners for ease of identifying potential problem areas and to help educate the owners as to the code references. The objective of this information sharing was to promote dialogue about any possible miscommunication about the codes and to provide transparency to what the fire and life safety requirements are.*
- *There were several compliments made by store owners in which they expressed their appreciation with the new methods of store inspections. It was also stated that the FMO had been accommodating during the pandemic in reaction to testing licensees, answering questions and conducting inspections.*

8) Content of committee report due December 1, 2020.

9) Adjournment:

- *Motion by David Welch, seconded by Sean Allsion to adjourn the annual meeting. Vote called by Rep. Welch, vote was unanimous.*
- *Meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.*