**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 5, 2020**

**Via ZOOM**

***(Unanimously Approved on Monday, December 7, 2020)***

Chief Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:07 a.m. via ZOOM. Fire Commission members participating remotely included Deputy Chief Kenneth Desmond (RET), Gerry Gay, Matt Gomes, Steven Greeley, Ron Green, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Representative Timothy Theriault, Chief Michael Thurlow, Chief Larry Willis (RET) and Susan Pinette (staff). Fire Commission members unable to participate in today’s ZOOM meeting included Stephan Bunker, Senator Brownie Carson, Senator Scott Cyrway, James Graves, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Chief Thomas Higgins, Sam Hurley, Peter Rogers, Chief Joseph Thomas and Representative Charlotte Warren. Guests of the Fire Commission joining today’s meeting included Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department and Chief Roger Hooper, York County Fire Administrator.

Fire Commission members started today’s meeting with a first-hand account of fighting fires in California. Matt Gomes, who represents the Forest Fire Control Division of the Maine Forest Service on the Fire Commission, was recently in northern California as part of the Maine response. The Fire Commission is grateful for the dedication and hard work of all those battling the fires in California and across the United States.

Committee Reports and Old Business

The Best Practices Committee reported no new nominations in September but encouraged Fire Commission members to forward worthy candidates to the Committee.

The Joint Spring Conference 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic and the Committee reported that plans are to reschedule the 2021 conference to March 2021. The Committee cautioned that the actual date will depend on the current COVID situation in Maine.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee reported that construction of the Yarmouth Fire Department’s training facility is one week from completion. Fire Commission expressed interest in touring the new facility before winter weather settles into Maine. The Yarmouth training facility will be the second project completed under the Fire Commission’s grant program.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee updated members regarding the National Volunteer Fire Council’s conference originally scheduled for September but cancelled because of the pandemic. The recruitment and retention conference was rescheduled as a ZOOM meeting on September 16th.

The Bylaws Committee reported they have been reviewing the Fire Commission’s current bylaws and will be offering suggestions to address concerns raised due to the pandemic. Committee members will focus on remote participation, voting and the Annual Meeting. Members are also considering requiring an annual review of the bylaws.

The Wildland Committee led a discussion of the goals and direction of the Committee. Several issues were discussed and the Committee agreed to schedule a meeting later this month.

The Treasurer reported no activity this month.

The LOSAP Board reported they intend to postpone meetings until the start of the 130th Maine Legislature in January 2021.

New Business and News from Members

Fire Prevention Week is Sunday, October 4th through Saturday, October 10th. The theme for 2020 is “Plan and Practice Your Escape”. Although many activities will be cancelled due to the pandemic, some events will be seen via ZOOM, including ceremonies at the Fire Fighter Memorial.

Maine Fire Service Institute graduated twenty seven newly certified Fire Officer I and II students. Congratulations!

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Dan Brooks adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan

Susan M. Pinette

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, November 2nd MEETING/TOUR Yarmouth 10:00am

Tuesday, November 3rd ELECTION DAY

Monday, December 7th MEETING ZOOM 9:00am

Friday, December 25th HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Monday, January 2021 MEETING TBD TBD

***Be safe, be well.***