



# Natural Scientist Public Meeting Minutes

Natural Scientists Board

May 19, 2023 at 9:00 AM EDT

@ 7 Eagle Square, Concord NH 03301

## Attendance

### Present:

Members: Damon Burt, Gregory Howard, Christopher Albert, Abigail Fopiano, OPLC's Shane Goulet, OPLC's Dawn Couture

### Absent:

Members: James Long

#### I. Call to Order –

9:22 a.m.

#### II. Review of the Public Minutes from the February 16, 2023 meeting –

Board Member Albert made a motion to approve the public minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Board Member Howard. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. Public Appearance

##### A. Public Information Officer Donna Long: Discuss PIO Process, Press Releases and Notices of Emergency Orders –

Donna Long attended via Zoom to provide the Board information on what her role as Public Information Officer is.

##### B. Kimberly Peace, chief of legislative committee for the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS).

NHANRS is a membership of licensees, state and municipal employees as well as citizens who work to promote the science of New Hampshire's wetlands and soils. Ms. Peace informed the Board that NHANRS is trying to become more involved with the Board due to the proposed changes in HB 2. Ms. Peace mentioned that some applicants have reached out to NHANRS in regard to renewal fees being returned to them. Administrator Couture confirmed that renewal fees have been returned to the licensee as the section within the Board's administrative rules, specific to fees had expired. Board Member Fopiano made a motion for a public notice to be sent out. The notice shall be reviewed by the Chair and legal counsel prior to sending. The motion was seconded by Board Member Howard. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Peace also mentioned that Board's website does not provide enough information for new applicants regarding the application process and upcoming exam dates. The Board does feel that this information should be made available on the website. Board Member Howard made a motion to provide the assigned exam dates onto the Board's website. Board Member Fopiano made an amendment to the motion to include a brief description on the website as well as with the application of the process in becoming licensed. The motion was seconded by Board Member Howard. The motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. Licensure:

##### A. Applications to Review for the Wetland written exam:

###### 1. Nicole Ashford –

Board Chair Burt made a motion to approve Ms. Ashford to sit for the next scheduled written exam. The motion was seconded by Board Member Albert. The motion passed unanimously.

###### 2. Elizabeth Ann Olliver –

The Board held a discussion. Board Chair Burt made a motion for Ms. Olliver to submit 4 additional projects from different sites and 1 out of the 4 project's needs to have a function and value form included per Soil 302.041 (c). The Board will review again at the next scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Albert. The motion passed unanimously.

###### 3. Justin T. Sherman –

Board Chair Burt made a motion to approve Mr. Sherman to sit for the next scheduled written exam. The motion was seconded by Board Member Albert. The motion passed unanimously.

###### 4. Carla A. Fenner –

The Board held a discussion as the application was missing a function and value form per Soil 302.04 (c). Board Member Howard made a motion to conditional approve Ms. Fenner to sit for the next scheduled written exam upon receiving a function and value form. The motion was seconded by Board Member Albert. The motion passed unanimously.

#### V. Rules Review and Other Legislative Topics

##### A. Administrative Rules:

###### 1. Adoption for Soil 100-200 –

Board Chair Burt signed the adoption letter for the Division of Administrative Rules.

###### 2. Draft Initial Proposal Soil 300 –

The Board was aware that their website indicated a public hearing was scheduled for today; however, the Board had not received any documents; therefore, the hearing did not take place.

###### 3. Hearing for Soil 500 –

The hearing opened at 9:42 a.m. There was public comment Ms. Peace that NHNARS is in favor of the changes. The hearing closed at 10:06 a.m.

#### VI. Non-Public Session

At 10:59 a.m. upon the motion of Board Member Howard and the second of Board Member Fopiano, to go into a non-public session the Board, by roll call, voted to conduct a non-public session for the purpose of the reading and approval of the non-public minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting, and evaluating complaints against licensees, accredited individuals, institution, or organizations, or persons charged with practicing unlawful activity, and noting that such a non-public session is authorized by RSA

91-A:3, II(c), RSA 91-A:5, IV, *Lodge v. Knowlton*, 118 N.H. 574 (1978), and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges. Each Member recorded his or her vote on the motion, which passed by the vote of all members present.

VII. Resume Public Session

At 11:52 a.m. upon the motion of Board Member Howard and the second of Board Chair Burt, and the Board unanimously voted by roll call, to reconvene the public meeting.

VIII. Seal the Minutes of the Non-Public Session

Upon the motion of Board Member Howard and the second of Board Member Fopiano, by roll call voted to seal the minutes of the non-public session from the public disclosure pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, III(c), on the grounds that public disclosure would be likely affect adversely the reputation of licensees, accredited individuals, institutions, or organizations, or persons charged with practicing unlawful activity, RSA 91-A:5, IV, *Lodge v. Knowlton*, 118 N.H. 574 (1978), and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges. The motion passed with each member recording his or her vote on the motion.

IX. Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 9:00 am.

X. Adjournment

Board Member Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Albert. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.