

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT  
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
PUBLIC MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2020**

Suzan Watkins, DVM, Vice-President and President-Elect of the NH Board of Veterinary Medicine (“Board”), convened a public meeting of the Board on April 8, 2020 at 7:05pm. Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. There is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, it was confirmed that public access to the meeting by telephone or other electronic means was possible. Zoom teleconferencing technology was in use for this electronic meeting.

All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 646 558 8656, or by clicking on the following website address: <https://zoom.us/j/427950377>.

Public notice with the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically instructions have also been provided on the website of the Board at: <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/veterinary-medicine/index.htm>. Additionally, the public notice indicated to contact Christine Senko at 271-7618 or [Christine.Senko@oplc.nh.gov](mailto:Christine.Senko@oplc.nh.gov) if there were problems with access.

It was noted that no one from the public expressed issues in accessing the meeting platform. In the event the public was unable to access the meeting, the meeting would have been adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** taken during this meeting were done by **roll call vote**. The following members announced their presence and confirmed no one else was in the room with them.

President Sonnya Dennis, DVM, DABVP (SD)  
Vice President Suzan Watkins, DVM (SW)  
Judith Leclerc, DVM (JL)  
Kirk Smith, DVM (KS)  
Winifred Krogman, DVM (WK)  
Public Member, Elaine Forst (EF)  
Ex Officio Member, Steve Crawford, DVM (SC)  
Administrator: Christine Senko (CS)  
Executive Director: Lindsey Courtney (LC)

The Board of Veterinary Medicine Mission Statement 332-B:1-a Purpose. The purpose of the board of veterinary medicine is to promote public health, safety, and welfare by safeguarding the people of New Hampshire against incompetent, unscrupulous, and unauthorized persons and from unprofessional or illegal practices by persons licensed to practice veterinary medicine. The right to practice veterinary medicine is a privilege granted by legislative authority to persons possessing personal and professional qualifications specified in this chapter.

I. CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP:

It was noted that Dr. Dennis's term as President of the Board ended 3/31/2020. Upon Motion made by SD, and seconded by SC, members voted unanimously by roll call to approve the following roles: Dr. Suzann Watkins, President and Dr. Judith LeClerc, Vice President.

II. TELEMEDICINE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

Members engaged in a conversation regarding the impact of the COVID 19 and the use of telemedicine in veterinary practices. It was noted that several inquiries were occurring on the subject. Members discussed the existing statute defining veterinary practice and the administrative rules, as well as the Principles of Veterinary Medicine Ethics (PVME) defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association. It was noted that there are currently no NH Administrative Rules prohibiting or preventing telemedicine from occurring; however members agreed in the importance of an established Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR), notwithstanding the use of telemedicine.

Upon motion made by WK and seconded by SC, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following statement:

*"The appropriate use of telemedicine is not a violation of the current N.H. Veterinary Practice Act or administrative rules adopted by the Board of Veterinary Medicine. All veterinarians are reminded that they must continue to abide by the N.H. Veterinary Practice Act, RSA Chapter 332-B; the Board's administrative rules; and the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the American Veterinary Medical Association (as revised in April 2016), which all govern the practice of veterinary medicine in New Hampshire, which requires a valid current VCPR."*

This statement will be taken forward to the Governor's Office in order for it to be approved to be posted and circulated.

III. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by SC and seconded by WK, member voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.