New Hampshire Public Works Association, Board of Directors

Minutes from June 12, 2009 at LGC Library, Concord, NH

Present: D. Lent, J. Perry, K. Blomquist, A. Bolduc, P. Capano, D. Proulx, L. Shaw, B. Strobel, B. Sullivan

Vice President Lent called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Draft minutes from April 2009 reviewed. Delete paragraph on Nominations. P. Capano motioned to approve amended minutes, second by A. Bolduc; all in favor.

Treasurer’s Report – J. Perry reported no activity since Annual Meeting in May.

Plow Rally – D. Lent reported the Committee will meet again in August to finalize the brochure. C. Quiram wants to change the course to be more like the New England course. Volunteers and sponsors are needed. There is a concern sponsorships will be slim. There is a contingency plan if short on sponsors to down-scale t-shirts. LGC has stepped up and paid for Fairground, catering, tables & chairs.

Construction Career Days – P. Capano reported the time and location is changing and may piggy-back on Plow Rally in September at Hopkinton Fairgrounds.

D. Lent expressed concern about needing to go beyond the Board and get more assistance from the general membership; suspects there are many out there who would be willing and interested in active participation. Membership expires Jun 30, can wait to discuss.

D. Lent asked if there was a sense the dues need to change; currently at $25/member; $100/community w/5 members. General group discussion reflected concern about current economy and wanting to keep membership up, not lose anyone. J. Perry motioned to keep dues the same; A. Bolduc seconded; all in favor.

D. Lent reported that there will be a “Public Works Summit” on July 22 at Manchester Community College, with two representatives from each of the various public works agencies and associations in New Hampshire, including NHPWA, Road Agents, Mutual Aid, Standards & Training Council, NHWWA, and NHWPCA. D. Lent and C. Quiram will represent NHPWA. The basic question is how we can best work together as a group, rather than tackling the same issues separately. Bruce Berry from NHPWS&TC is spearheading, trying to improve coordination with NHDOT, NHDES, USEPA and other agencies – they don’t have the time to meet with all these varied groups. K. Blomquist has met with C. Quiram, K. Sheppard and Governor Lynch. We may need to look into consolidating – we have similar goals and concerns, but there is a limited pool of people. We need to better use our resources. D. Lent reminded us also that C. Quiram had also pitched the idea that we could consider becoming an APWA chapter.

Scholarships – discussion continued about how we would like to do scholarships in the future. D. Lent suggested supporting someone looking more into public works than engineering, per se. Perhaps we
should support our staff with continuing education. K. Blomquist commented, such as the Norwich MPA program. K. Blomquist said we used to get applications, and then the Board decided to hand off to UNH & Thompson School. Another model is to fund the same student throughout their education. D. Lent mentioned there will be other requests for support, such as the Public Works Memorial, which will also need maintenance.

D. Lent stressed we need to revitalize the newsletter. Because of timing, we could publish every other month, with firm deadline of the 15th of the month before. D. Lent asked Bill Cote of LGC to include an article on liability for public works; K. Blomquist and others can include articles written for other publications, too. One suggestion was for legal review on Tilton sidewalk decision. K. Blomquist will put out a request for ideas and authors through PW net.

D. Lent stated we need to start thinking about educational sessions for the fall meeting; we want to keep the sessions together for one day instead of spread over two.

D. Lent stated we need to revisit the by-laws (on website), possibly with those present at the time (K. Blomquist, C. Quiram, J. Brown). LGC legal should also review. Also need to review and update mission statement and goals at next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 10th at 9:00 a.m. at LGC.

K. Blomquist motioned to adjourn, seconded by B. Sullivan. D. Lent adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Perry, Secretary/Treasurer