



Town of New Castle, NH

Board of Firewards

Approved Minutes of April 14, 2015 Meeting

Present: Fireward Reg Whitehouse, Fireward Damon Frampton, Patricia Scholz-Cohen, Chairman Selectboard.

In Attendance: Dave McGuckin, Bill Stewart, Tom Smith, Clint Springer, Peter Rice, Carl Roediger, Bill Cronin

The meeting was called to order by Dinsmore at 16:00 hrs. and all joined in with the Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Whitehouse to approve the draft minutes from the March 10, 2015 meeting with corrections. Seconded by Frampton. Motion passed.

Fireward's Report: None at this time

Fire Chief's Report:

Fire Chief's Report to the Fire Wards

1. Public Events: NHSPCA Dog Plunge at the New Castle Beach, Easter Bunny Run at the Commons, Pancake Breakfast this Saturday at the Church Parish Hall
2. Training: Engine 1 participated in a Submarine Fire Drill at the Shipyard on April 1 and there is a Major Graded Exercise scheduled for May 6, Brentley Childs is attending a FF2 class in Center Ossipee, Three members are attending the Company Officer's Academy this week, and three joint training sessions were held with the Rye Fire Dept. at the former Rand's Lumber building in Rye, a CPR class held for several Coast Guard members.
3. Recruiting: One applicant is in the pipeline pending selection.
4. Building: 4-5 roof shingles missing from the apparatus bay roof after high winds. Scheduled to be repaired today.
5. Boat: The boat is in service and moored on E-Dock at the marina.

Select Board's Liaison Report:

1. Cohen has a question about a letter dated March 30th regarding an insurance document "Public Protection Classification" and will contact Chief Blanding on Thursday or Friday for an explanation.

Recruiting Efforts Report:

1. Firefighters in Kittery expressed an interest in working for NCFD
2. The Pancake Breakfast, like any event sponsored by the fire department, will be an avenue to attract volunteers to join our department.

Unfinished Business: None at this time

New Business:

1. Frampton has fourteen (14) questions he would like answered by the NCFD and/or Firewards. The answers will be provided during the May 12th meeting.
2. Chief Blanding has expressed his frustration, through the Chairman, with the treatment and lack of respect from the Town of New Castle afforded to the fire department and has requested a severance package if the town wishes to remove him as Chief.

3. Rice expanded on the frustration felt by the fire department in length, speaking to several years of poor relationships with the town and the fire department.

Announcements:

1. Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for April 18th, from 6:30 – 10:30 a.m. at the Parish Hall of The New Congregational Church.

Public Deliberation:

1. Smith asked “Why has the meeting place been changed from the Public Safety building to the Town Hall”. Answered by Dinsmore, it is a more suitable venue for the meeting.
2. Roediger asked, “Why have members of the New Castle town government and a newly appointed Fireward petitioned to do away with the Firewards with an eight-five year history of successfully working with the Chief and the town.” Damon stated that the Firewards are not doing their jobs. McGuckin stated that the Firewards are outdated and the process should have the Chief report directly to the Selectboard.

Upcoming Fireward’s Meeting

1. May 12, 2015 at the Town Hall, 49 Main Street, New Castle, NH 03854, Macomber Room from 4:00 – 5:00PM

Fireward Final Comments: None at this time

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 16:30 hours by Frampton and seconded by Whitehouse. The vote was unanimous.

Reggie Whitehouse, Secretary
New Castle Board of Firewards

Draft Minutes Submitted: June 7, 2015
Minutes Approved: June 9, 2015