



Board of Directors Minutes  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
Zoom Meeting

**In attendance:** Cynthia Fournier, Karen Holden, Emo Chynoweth, Terry Crotty, Tim Eldridge, Su Brobst, Maryann Belanger, Marc Raposo, Laurie Young, Tom Sutton, Sandy Rowe, Winfried Feneberg **Absent:** Howard Anderson, Joanne Waterhouse and Ryan Renauld Smith **Staff:** Matt Gatzke

**Call to order:** Cynthia called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

**Update from Trooper Hildreth:** He is still on light duty. Handling 95% of administrative duties including reporting, waivers, crash reports, etc. so catching up in those areas. He just can't visit locations yet. Near the end of rostering. Reach out to him if you are not hearing back. Seeing lots of page twos without page ones and the opposite as well. Complaints about red light usage issues with buses in loading and unloading areas. Drivers passing buses with red lights flashing and some buses not using red lights at all. Reports that some schools have told drivers not to use red lights in loading and unloading zone. Reports of local police also waving people through. Drivers in loading zones must be running red lights as it is the driver's only liability protection. Roadside stops are no different. Saf-Cs require this currently. The rule could be updated to be more user-friendly allowing some discretion in not running lights if situation permits. Greg looking into what other states are doing about this. Waivers are out there for NPV's that have no need to impede traffic, but not in a loading or unloading zone. Such topics to be discussed during first rules review meeting with NHSTA committee. Have had an uptick in driver at fault accidents. Problems more with driver behavior post-crash. Leaving the scene of the accident can result in loss of their school bus endorsement for up to ten years. No discretion on revoking their licenses if they are convicted. They also lose their CDL if they have one. On safety inspections, safety inspection stickers (bottom) must be current and in place. The center sticker addresses safety components of vehicle. Finding inspectors is difficult. There are buses running out there that are not in compliance. If inspection sticker on bottom is expired, they cannot be on the road. Still important to keep center sticker up to date as well. 2023 is year for rules update. Greg has a list of suggested changes, updates or not addressed items to consider. Terry commented that you could waive any rule in the 1300s but then changed to be just equipment related rules. Should change back to allow waiving of any rule. The pandemic showed reason why this is necessary. Required Governor's orders to get around certain rules.

**Acceptance of Secretary's Report of June 14 Annual Meeting Meeting:** Marc made correction to remove Trooper Hildreth from list of attendees. Motion was made to approve, second made. No further discussion. Motion was approved with one abstention.

**Review of the June-August Financials Reports:** After a bit of confusion on versions of the reports for July and August which did not show the entire budget figures in all columns, a motion was made to approve the reports for June through August 2022. Motion was seconded. Matt reminded all that we are only reviewing the AR report for August as it reflects most current status. Matt explained there are more companies to pay but to ignore the \$168 placeholder. Hearing no further discussion, the motion to approve all was approved. Matt commented that one of the biggest differences from the past year to next year is the fact that we won't likely have as much income without another instructor program. Staff will do a poll of members to determine if it might be worthwhile to try hosting the program again in 2023. Pulling the team together is a big challenge. Mike reported on the IRS status as he has been working to get status re-instated. Paperwork has been filed and he is working on the annual report.

**In-Service Training Committee:** Matt reported that we have asked MVHS for all available dates for Saturday training. Hope to have Oct. 22. Do any board members know of speakers or trainers from their schools or fleets who could instruct. Perhaps Carol Gelinas on special needs. Cynthia to speak with her to talk over some ideas for topics relevant to the beginning of school. She asked others to suggest other speakers on student management, bullying, suicide

education speakers for an hour or more. Both bullying and suicide are required annually by the state so it makes great sense for us to offer those topics at least.

**Legislative Committee:** Karen not present. Mike commented that there will be an extended filing period for LSRs because it is an election year. Mike to send anything that we hear of on to Karen and Howard.

**Rules and Safety Committee:** As has been discussed, she commented on the Saf-Cs being up for renewal. She asked Cynthia to confirm date for first meeting which is to be Oct. 18 at 10:30 at Troop G. Karen, Tim, Laurie, Marc, Sandy, Maryann and Cynthia. State restricting us to four people to come to the office. Sandy reminded all that our own committee was to meet first. Cynthia asked that all on the committee review the rules and give comments to Sandy, Marc, Karen and Cynthia via email. What should be changed and how we suggest they act on the change. Marc asked for flexibility on the date to meet. Could meet on Oct. 19 instead. Try to keep it to no more than two hours. Marc went through entire Saf-C book with changes. After initial meeting, the plan is to come back to the committee with outcomes and discuss points further. Sandy mentioned that FMCSA reached out that when they have a new CDL candidate hired they have to at least have a CDL permit to have a DOT pre-employment drug screen and physical. People mistakenly said they were going for a CDL card and the paperwork got marked as such even though they never had a permit. They then tested positive. Created problems because it ended up in the Clearing house which got them flagged as an improper drug screening. Drug test has to be non-CDL. If they don't check off the CDL on the medical card, they will be stopped from getting their CDL. Until they have a permit or CDL they can't go for a CDL pre-employment drug screen. Marc asked when with the clearing house when do we get to the point we don't have to send out the cards? When you hire someone new the former employer has to show three years of history. For non-CDL drivers you can have a separate drug testing pool for random drug testing. That is not controlled by the Feds.

Cynthia will forward Greg's email about red lights and Matt will share with the board.

**Awards Banquet Committee:** Sandy confirmed event will be Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Derryfield. Matt has ordered the pins and is working with engraver to get deadline for ordering plaques. Promos to go out. Need to ask fleets to check rosters submitted to us previously for any who have left employment. Invitations to go out to DOS officials.

**Public Relations Committee:** Tim commented that National School Bus Safety Week is coming up. Matt commented that there was an uptick in news media contacts about driver shortage. Confirmed who office should push inquiries on to. Be mindful of line of questioning.

**Scholarship Committee:** Tom had no report to offer. Matt asked if the group might consider increasing the amount of the scholarship to may be attract more applicants. Is the low dollar amount a reason people are not applying? Need to consider why we have had few applicants in recent years. Marc suggested that at the driver level the word is not getting out there. Need to get terminal managers and instructors to help spread the word. Managers of numerous locations need to help post it and inform the drivers. Have handouts at safety meetings and events too.

**Membership Strategies Committee:** No action as Laurie had to depart but left message in chat that she will work on a meeting date and will reach out to schedule a meeting.

**Old Business:** No old business was heard.

**New Business:** Terry asked if Anewkum has joined NHSTA. Matt to double check that. Office will be renewing D & O insurance policy for the year. Same cost as last year. Matt reviewed committee assignments based on sheet he had sent around. Rules and Safety Committee changes were made. Matt asked for input on any change or additions to be made. Ryan Renauld Smith to be contacted about serving on a committee. Likely in-service committee. Cynthia asked about the newsletter and how we might get it back on track. Need people who bring up topics to follow through with an article, especially things of a more technical nature. Marc suggested fall, winter, spring editions. Matt asked about resuming meetings with Director Marasco. Marc reported that once Greg is back full time, he can then get the meetings setup again with the Director.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 12:10 p.m.