



NHMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2026

Approved: May 15, 2026

Board Members Attending

Branley, Michael, Town Administrator, Windham
Buono, Laura, Town Administrator, Hillsborough
Connelly, Shelagh, Conservation Commission, Holderness
D'Avanza, Phil, Planning Board, Goffstown
Devine, Joe, Town Manager, Salem
Dorsett, Andrew, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Lyman
Edwards, Robert, Select Board member, Antrim
Forrester, Jeanie, **Vice Chair**, Select Board Member, Meredith
Haight, Joanne, Select Board member, Sandwich
Ham, Bonnie, Planning Board Member, Woodstock
Kretovic, Jennifer, City Councilor, Concord
Larsen, Holly, Finance Dir./Tax Collector, Berlin
MacIver, Conner, Town Administrator, Barrington
Michaud, Jim, Chief Assessor, Hudson
Mulholland, Shaun, Town Manager, Londonderry
Normand, Matthew, City Clerk, Manchester
Radke, Lori, Town Administrator, Milford
Rautiola, Lori, Town Administrator, Swanzey
Seymour, Thomas, Moderator, Hill
Shanahan, Dennis, Mayor, Dover
Stack, David, Town Administrator, Bow

Staff Members Attending

Burke Cohen, Sarah, Legislative Advocate
Byrnes, Margaret, Executive Director
Deshaies, Brodie, Legislative Advocate
Pellowe, Judith, Business Administrator
Valley, Pam, Administrative Assistant

Chair Dennis Shanahan opened the meeting at 9:30 AM followed by the pledge of allegiance.

1. Administrative Report

Judith Pellowe reviewed the March income statement, balance sheet, and workshop revenue with the board.

Shanahan asked if there were questions regarding the March financials. None raised.

Shanahan stated that there is a correction to the March draft meeting minutes on page three to change “independent” schools to “dependent” schools. Shanahan asked if there were any other changes to the administrative report. None raised.

MOTION by Jennifer Kretovic seconded by Thomas Seymour, to accept the administrative report with the amendment to the minutes. Motion passed.

2. Legal Services Report

Byrnes reviewed the legal services report with the board.

3. NHMA Advocacy Report

Byrnes gave a report on legislative crossover. At the beginning of the session, there were over four hundred bills NHMA was following. At crossover, that number is down to one hundred forty-five (145) bills still active that NHMA is following.

Legislative Policy committees continue to meet. The proposal due date is end of day today, April 17, 2026.

Sarah Burke Cohen and Brodie Deshaies gave an update to the following bills:

HB 348/SB 441 (support/oppose), local welfare options and intermunicipal fair hearing process

SB 439 (oppose), relative to municipal data center zoning

SB 508 (oppose), relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period

SB 538 (support), extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects. Burke Cohen encouraged board members to reach out to their representatives to let them know the current amendment on this bill is not good for municipalities as they can lose money.

SB 564 (oppose), prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions

HB 1064 (oppose), relative to liability of governmental units. Burke Cohen shared that it is NHMA's hope this bill goes to interim study. Board members discussed the consequences to parks and recreation programs, as well as other departments in towns. Burke Cohen asked if members to reach out to their senators and let them know that this bill, if passed, will be bad financially for towns. The *Legislative Bulletin* will have more information regarding this bill.

Joanne Haight arrived at the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

HB 1066 (oppose), relative to warrant articles authorizing lease agreements

HB 1788 (oppose), holding state contracts with DEI provisions to be void as a matter of law and establishing a right of action for citizens where public entities or state agencies engage with contracts with DEI provisions

HB 1184 (oppose), relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property. Burke Cohen shared the status of this bill and potential problems for municipalities. Board members

were asked to reach out to their senators. NHMA and the NH Library Trustees Association will be testifying on this bill.

HB 1137 (oppose), relative to municipal budget committee membership

HB 1491 (support), introduces assessable risk pools into the statutory scheme as an alternative to non-assessable pools. Byrnes stated that at the hearing, the bill as introduced and the proposed amendment were heard at the same time, which was unusual. The basic premise of the bill is that if risk pools are assessable, they would stay with the secretary of state oversight; if the pool is non assessable, it would move to the insurance department oversight. However, the amendment the Senate has released creates a very arduous process for a pool to move to insurance. NHMA would have to oppose this Senate amendment. Byrnes encouraged members to read all the documents (complaint, HealthTrust's responses, City of Dover lawsuit) if they haven't already. The hearing on the complaint is April 24, 2026. Shanahan provides more background on Dover's complaint against School Care.

Conner MacIver asked whether or not the secretary of state intervened. Shanahan stated that they may. Further discussion ensued regarding this bill.

SB 661 (oppose), allows only assessable risk pools. Byrnes stated this bill is awaiting hearing in the House and makes substantial changes to RSA chapter 5-B.

HB 1602 (support), creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program. Deshaies shared that the bottom line is that there needs to be a better way to recycle.

Byrnes spoke on HB 1224 regarding SB 2 default budgets and one time line transfers to the advocacy update. Members were asked to contact their senators and let them know this bill contradicts current budget law and is not workable for SB 2 towns.

Jim Michaud brought up SB 448 regarding Veterans credits and provided background on this bill to the board.

4. Executive director's matters of interest

Byrnes shared that NHMA received notice from the National League of Cities (NLC) extending the deadline on the new website ADU compliance requirements. Municipalities with a population 50,000 or more will now have the deadline of April 24, 2027. Municipalities with a population under 50,000 will have a deadline in 2028.

Shelagh Connelly asked about the "No Taxes Forever" hearing that happened this week. Discussion ensued.

David Stack asked about NHMA's publication, *State Aid* book. Byrnes shared that it will be updated this year.

Lori Radke asked about the Nashua article on the flag being flown and whether any of the board members have dealt with this issue locally. Jennifer Kretovic of Concord shared some feedback from her experience in Concord. Shanahan shared that Dover has a flag policy in their city guidelines.

MOTION by Jim Michaud, seconded by Phil D'Avanza, to adjourn the meeting.

Shanahan declared the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Pam Valley, Administrative Assistant