



## NHMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2026

Approved: June 19, 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  
Dorsett, Andrew, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Lyman  
Edwards, Robert, Select Board member, Antrim  
Forrester, Jeanie, **Vice Chair**, Select Board Member  
Fournier, Steve, Town Manager, Newmarket  
Fox, Elizabeth, Asst. City Manager/HR Dir., Keene  
Girard, Dale, Mayor, Claremont  
Ham, Bonnie, Planning Board Member, Woodstock  
Larsen, Holly, Finance Dir., Tax Collector, Berlin  
MacIver, Conner, Town Administrator, Barrington  
Michaud, Jim, Chief Assessor, Hudson  
Moore, David, City Manager, Somersworth  
Mulholland, Shaun, Town Manager, Londonderry  
Normand, Matthew, City Clerk, Manchester  
Radke, Lori, Town Administrator, Milford  
Rautiola, Lori, Town Administrator, Swanzey  
Shanahan, Dennis, Mayor, Dover  
Seymour, Thomas, Moderator, Hill  
Stack, David, Town Administrator, Bow

### Staff Members Attending

Burke Cohen, Sarah, Legislative Advocate  
Byrnes, Margaret, Executive Director  
Cowan, Jonathan, Legal Services Counsel  
Deshaies, Brodie, Legislative Advocate  
Valley, Pam, Administrative Assistant

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

Bonnie Ham arrived at 9:36 a.m.

1. Administrative Report

Margaret Byrnes reviewed the April financials with the board, including the income statement, balance sheet and workshop revenue report. Byrnes updated the board on the status of the membership dues.

Connelly asked why some of the workshops have expenses and others don't. Byrnes shared that some workshops have not been done yet in 2026 and others have not had the food bill paid yet. Jonathan Cowal confirmed that the Local Officials Workshop is no charge to attendees, but NHMA has a catering expense. Byrnes noted that revenue for On Demands is ahead of budget. Byrnes stated NHMA did not end up renting an off-site venue for the Financial Policies series, so those costs will be lower than planned.

Shaun Mulholland shared that Londonderry recently had a virtual On Demand presented by NHMA, and it was very well done and received by their officials.

Jim Michaud asked about the NLC grant of \$10,000. Byrnes shared that NHMA had applied for a grant that was available from the National League of Cities.

**MOTION** by Steve Fournier, seconded by Andrew Dorsett, to accept the administrative report as presented. Motion passes. Dale Girard abstained.

## 2. Legal Services Report

Cowal reviewed the legal services report, including inquiry numbers and topics. He stated that part of our strategic goal was to push legal services, and we see that effort worked. The number of presentations and On Demands by staff has increased greatly. So far, for 2026, we have already exceeded the total number of presentations including On Demands done in 2025. We are currently scheduling presentations in July and later on new requests.

## 3. NHMA Advocacy Report

Shanahan turned to Margaret Byrnes and the advocacy team for an update on legislation. Byrnes shared that we are close to the end of the session, which is June 4.

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

HB 1224 (oppose), relative to the default budget for official ballot town meetings

HB 1355 (oppose), relative to eliminating the default budget from the official ballot referenda

HB 1134 (oppose), relative to the town meeting form of local governance

HB 1319 (oppose), enabling towns, village districts, or school districts to adopt or rescind a local fiscal accountability committee for towns and schools

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

HB 1137, relative to municipal budget committee membership

HB 1076 (oppose), relative to authorizing or rescinding the use of electronic ballot counting devices

HB 1272 (oppose), providing an option for each candidate's party affiliations to be printed on the town or school district ballot

HB 1516-FN (oppose), allowing municipalities to vote to require that pie charts, bar charts, and QR codes be placed on property tax bills depicting where and how tax dollars are being allocated

HB 1581-FN (oppose), allowing municipalities to adopt a requirement that property owners be given notice when the assessed value of their property changes by certain amounts.

HB 1602-FN (support), creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program

Byrnes updated the board on the following:

HB 1491/SB 661, risk pool regulation. Byrnes stated that both bills have passed, and so their next stop is the governor. It is important that the governor sign both bills.

Deshaies and Burke Cohen provided updates on the following:

HB 1064 (oppose), relative to liability of governmental units

HB 1184 (oppose), relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property. Connelly asked who is authorized to issue the no trespass orders. Burke Cohen shared that it could be the person that is in charge of taking care of the facility, such as the library director.

HB 1588 (oppose), relative to the regulation of accessory parking for vehicles by local legislative bodies and multifamily housing within commercial districts by municipalities. Byrnes shared that it is important that members reach out to their representatives on this bill.

Matthew Normand departed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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

HB 1681 (oppose), relative to the definition, inspection, and local approval of tiny houses and yurts as innovative housing structures.

HB 1079 (oppose), allowing accessory dwelling units to be built within or attached to certain nonconforming structures.

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

HB 1131 (neutral), relative to the official ballot referendum form of town meetings.

SB 643 (oppose), requiring cities and towns with councils to take a roll call vote when overriding a tax cap and to print the vote on the tax bill

HB 340, (oppose) relative to electioneering by public employees. Burke Cohen asked members to please keep an eye on this bill. It will also be in the *Legislative Bulletin*.

SB 564 (oppose), prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions. Deshaies asked board members to contact their representatives to ask them to kill this bill. MacIver stated he was concerned about the safety and dead-ends roads, such as when trees come down and are blocking the only ingress/egress. Brodie stated that NHMA has raised that concern to no avail.

SB 593 (support), enabling the use of solid waste management funds by solid waste management districts. Burke Cohen shared that this bill has been signed by the governor. It was a big win for solid waste districts.

HB 348 (support), relative to eligibility for local assistance

HB 1195 (oppose), relative to municipal zoning requirements for child day care providers

HB 707 regarding landfills, local zoning.

HB 1469 regarding license for massage therapy establishments.

#### 4. Executive director's matters of interest

##### June 19 Meeting

Byrnes asked if board members can make it to the June 19 meeting. Some municipalities are closed in observation of Juneteenth. It is not a holiday for NHMA. There was consensus that the meeting did not need to be rescheduled.

Announcement from Margaret

Byrnes announced that she has been offered a position as CEO of a nonprofit organization in NH and has accepted the offer. Byrnes' last day with NHMA will be July 17, 2026.

NHMA does have a succession plan in place. An Executive Committee meeting will follow the board meeting for further discussion and planning in accordance with the plan.

Board members congratulated Byrnes and conversation ensued.

**MOTION** by Steve Fournier, seconded by Andrew Dorsett, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Pam Valley, Administrative Assistant