

PEMIGEWASSET VALLEY SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



By-Laws

June 2020

Original: March 25, 2005

Revised: April 13, 2011

Revised June 24, 2020

ARTICLE I - Articles of Agreement

The name of the Corporation, shall be the Pemigewasset Valley Search & Rescue Association, Inc. and it shall commonly be known as the Pemigewasset Valley Search & Rescue Team (the "PVSART") and the purposes for which it is established and the location of its principal place of business shall be as set forth in the Articles of Agreement, as from time to time amended, and these By-Laws. The powers of the Members and the Board of Directors and all matters concerning the conduct and regulation of the PVSART shall be subject to such provisions in regard thereto, if any, as are set forth in such Articles of Agreement which are hereby made a part of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1. Members. The PVSART shall have no limit on members, which membership shall be open to all persons or entities that supports the purpose of the Corporation regardless of race, color or national and ethnic origin. Members of the PVSART shall be a minimum of eighteen (18) years in age and support the mission of the PVSART. Active and Support members must maintain a physical residence within fifty (50) miles of Exit 32 of Interstate 93.

Section 2. Categories of Members. The PVSART shall have the following membership categories; Active, Support, Inactive, and Sponsor.

Section 3. Active Member. Active Members are "callout qualified" and may respond when requested to a PVSART field operation. Active members must: i) complete the basic PVSART training with a level of competency; ii) Acquire, equip and maintain a search and rescue 24-hour gear cache that has been approved by the Team Captain; iii) pass a written test detailing PVSART Standard Operating Guidelines; and iv) demonstrate to the Team Captain that they are physically fit and mentally prepared to participate in PVSART field operations. Active members must participate annually in at least one (1) training session and three (3) missions unless excused by the Team Captain. An active member, upon reaching the age of 60, must successfully complete a qualifying hike or actively participate in a mission each year to maintain active status. The Board may vote to limit the number of Active Members if it deems it necessary. Failure to meet minimum participation requirements will result in Board action per Section 8.

Section 4. Support Member. Support Members are members with full privileges who provide logistical support for PVSART field operations, to include dispatch, command post assistance when requested, and/or administrative duties. Support Members do not need to demonstrate the same physical abilities as an Active Member but must be capable of providing support functions to the team as determined by the Team Captain. Support Members must participate annually in any combination of three (3) PVSART meetings, trainings, or missions

unless excused by the PVSART President. Support members are approved by the Board and the number of Support Members shall not exceed fifteen (15). Failure to meet minimum participation requirements will result in Board action per Section 8.

Section 5. Inactive Member. Inactive status is granted to an Active Member who formally requests to be placed in inactive status due to a temporary reason with the intention of returning to active status. Inactive status is granted by the Team Captain for up to one (1) year. Inactive members are encouraged to attend PVSART training sessions and meetings. Members who request inactive status may revert to active status upon request and approval of the Team Captain. If inactive status is desired for longer than one (1) year, approval must be recommended by the Team Captain and approved by the Board of Directors. Inactive Members are required to pay the annual dues during the period that they are inactive.

Section 6. Sponsor Member. Sponsor Members are individuals who desire to provide financial support and promote the mission of the PVSART. The only requirement of Sponsor Members is they support the mission of PVSART and pay annual dues as determined by the Board. The Sponsor Membership application process shall consist only of an abbreviated application and does not require further approval. Sponsor Members do not receive team benefits such as National Forest Service parking passes or professional "Pro-Pricing" purchase discounts.

Section 7. Membership Application Process. Prospective Active or Support members shall i) complete the PVSART Application; ii) complete the PVSART Waiver of Liability; iii) pay one year's dues (non-prorated); iv) attend a meeting regarding PVSART Standard Operating Guidelines; v) submit to an interview by the Team Captain; vi) pass a written test demonstrating their knowledge of the Standard Operating Guidelines and; vii) for prospective active members, successfully demonstrate to the Team Captain that he/she is physically fit and capable of participating in PVSART operations. The Team Captain shall submit the application to the Board of Directors with a recommendation and the Board of Directors will take action on the application.

Section 8. Expulsion. The Board of Directors may vote to terminate a Member's membership for any of the following reasons:

- A. Failure to pay annual dues,
- B. Failure to meet minimum participation requirements,
- C. Failure to obey a reasonable request by an officer or senior member in charge of an operation,
- D. Using red lights and/or a siren to respond to a PVSART field operation,
- E. Inappropriate response to a field operation,
- F. Sexual harassment,
- G. Possession or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol at any training, drill or field operation,
- H. Behavior that discredits PVSART,

- I. Negligent action or inaction which harms or could harm any rescuer, patient or bystander.

ARTICLE III - Membership Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held during the month of April of each year at such time and place as the Directors may determine. If the annual meeting is not held during April, a special meeting in lieu of an annual meeting may be held with all the force and effect of the annual meeting. Notice of the annual meeting setting forth the date, time, and place of any such meeting shall be sent via electronic mail to all Members at the last e-mail address provided by the Member to the Secretary not less than seven (7) day(s) prior to the date of the annual meeting. The primary purpose of the annual meeting is to elect the Board of Directors, to receive reports of the Directors, Treasurer, and Team Captain, and to approve the Annual Budget.

Section 2. Regular Meetings. In addition to the annual meeting there shall be a minimum of two (2) regular membership meetings annually which may include training and drills. The date and time of the regular meetings shall be set by the Directors. Notice of the meeting setting forth the date, time, and place of any such meeting shall be sent via e-mail to all Members at the last e-mail address provided to the Secretary not less than seven (7) day(s) prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the membership can be called by the President, a petition by the majority of the Directors, or a petition of ten (10) Active and/or Support Members. Any such petition must include the purpose of the special meeting. Upon the President receiving a petition the President shall schedule a meeting of the membership within thirty days of receipt of said petition. Notice of the special meeting setting forth the date, time, place and purpose of any such meeting shall be sent via e-mail to all members at the e-mail address provided to the Secretary not less than seven (7) day(s) prior to the date of the special meeting. Business transacted at a special meeting shall be limited to the purpose or purposes stated in the notice of the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. The presence in person or by proxy of a majority of the Active and Support members of PVSART shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the members except as otherwise provided by law, by the Articles of Agreement, or by these By-Laws. If less than a quorum shall be in attendance at the time for which the meeting shall have been called, the meeting may be adjourned from time to time by a majority vote of the members present or represented, without any notice other than by announcement at the meeting, until a quorum shall attend. At any adjourned meeting at which a quorum shall attend, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted if the meeting had been held as originally called.

Section 7. Conduct of Meetings. Meetings of Members shall be presided over by the President or the Vice President or, if neither is present, by a chairperson to be elected at the

meeting. If the Secretary is not present, the presiding officer may appoint a person to act as Secretary of the meeting.

Section 8. Voting. At all meetings of Members each Active and Support Member shall have one (1) vote. Such vote may be either in person or by proxy appointed by an instrument in writing subscribed by such member, bearing a date not more than three (3) months prior to said meeting. Such proxy shall be dated, but need not be sealed, witnessed, or acknowledged. All elections and all questions shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast at a duly constituted meeting except as otherwise provided by law, in the Articles of Agreement, or by these By-Laws. If the chairperson of the meeting shall so determine, a vote by ballot may be taken upon any election or matter, and the vote shall be so taken upon the request of ten percent (10%) or more of all of the members entitled to vote on such election or matter.

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors

Section 1. Powers. The Board of Directors shall have the entire charge, control, and management of the PVSART and its property and may exercise all or any of its powers except those specifically reserved to the membership pursuant to these By-Laws. The Board of Directors is responsible for preparing an annual budget for approval by the members at the Annual Meeting of the Members and establishing the annual dues.

Section 2. Number. The Board of Directors ("Board") shall consist of not less than nine (9) directors nor more than fifteen (15) directors (individually referred to as "Director", collectively referred to as the "Directors"). The number of Directors shall be fixed at the Annual Meeting, but the Directors may, at a special meeting held for the purpose, change (within the above limits) the number of Directors.

Section 3. Term. Directors shall serve for three-year terms ending on the date of the annual meeting. The term of each initial Director, and each Director appointed on an increase in the number of Directors, shall be specified at the time of appointment. The terms of the Directors shall be fixed so that one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) (or such number as approximates one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) insofar as practicable) shall be selected each year. No decrease in the number of Directors shall have the effect of shortening the term of any incumbent Director. Each Director shall hold office until their term expires and until their successor is selected. No Director shall serve for more than three (3) full terms consecutively.

Section 4. Qualifications. In order to be elected or appointed as a Director of the PVSART the Candidate i) must be a current Active or Support member of the PVSART; ii) must have served as an Active or Support member of the PVSART in at least three (3) previous calendar years; iii) must not be a Line Officer of the PVSART; and iv) must not be an Officer of or on the Board of Directors of any other Search and Rescue teams in the State of New Hampshire.

Section 5. Election. At the Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting in lieu of an Annual Meeting, a majority of the Active and Support Members shall elect the Board from among those qualified members nominated to be a Director by a Nominating Committee as established by the Directors. The term for each Director shall also be determined in order to comply with Section 3 of this Article. Any vacancy in the Board may be filled by the Directors pursuant to Section 14 of this Article.

Section 6. Quorum. Unless otherwise provided, a quorum for conducting a meeting of the Board shall be a majority of the Directors; but if less than a majority of the Directors is present at said meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 7. Removal. A Director may be removed from office with or without cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors then in office.

Section 8. Resignation. Any Director may resign by delivering their written resignation to the President or Secretary. Such resignation shall be effective upon receipt unless it is specified to be effective at some other time or upon the happening of some other event.

Section 9. Annual Meeting of Board. The annual meeting of the Board shall be held immediately after the annual meeting of the membership for the purpose of electing the administrative officers and conducting such other business as may come before the Directors.

Section 10. Regular Meetings of Board. Regular meetings of the Board may be held at such times and places as shall from time to time be fixed by resolution of the Board and no notice need be given of regular meetings held at the times and places so fixed, provided, however, that any resolution relating to the holding of regular meetings shall remain in force only until the next annual meeting of the Directors, or a special meeting held in lieu thereof, and that if at any meeting of the Board, at which a resolution is adopted fixing the times or place or places for any regular meetings, if any Director is absent, no meeting shall be held pursuant to such resolution until either each such absent Director has in writing approved the resolution or seven days have elapsed after a copy of the resolution has been sent via e-mail, addressed to each such absent Director at their last known e-mail address.

Section 11. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President, by the Secretary, by any two Directors, or by one Director in the event that there is only one Director, and shall be held at the place designated in the notice or call thereof. Notice of all special meetings of the Directors shall be given to each Director by the Secretary or, in case of the death, absence, incapacity or refusal by the Secretary, by the officer or one of the Directors calling the meeting. Such notice shall be given to each Director in person, by telephone, by e-mail, or facsimile transmission sent to each Director's business or home address last provided to the Secretary at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting or by mail addressed to such business or home address and post-marked at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. Except as required by law, notice of a special meeting

need not be given to: (1) any Director who, either before or after the meeting, delivers a written waiver of notice, executed by the Director, which is filed with the records of the meeting; or (2) any Director who attends the meeting and who, either prior to the meeting or at its commencement, fails to protest the lack of such notice. A notice or waiver of notice need not specify the purpose of any special meeting unless such purpose is the removal of a Director or Officer.

Section 12. Telephone Conference Meetings. The Directors or the members of any committee may participate in a meeting of the Board or such committee by means of a telephone conference or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time, and participating by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 13. Manner of Acting. The act of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board, unless the act of the greater number is required by law or these By-Laws. The Board may also act without a meeting if written consent setting forth the action taken thereto is signed by all the Directors and filed with the records of the Board meetings. Such consent shall be treated as a vote of the Directors for all purposes.

Section 14. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board shall be filled at the next regular or special meeting of the Board from among those qualified individuals nominated to be a Director by the Board. Such person shall be elected by the Board for the unexpired term of office of the predecessor in office.

Section 15. Director - Absence from Meeting. Any Director who is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without excuse satisfactory to the Board shall be deemed to have surrendered the office of Director.

Section 16. Director - Residuary Powers. The Board shall have the powers and duties necessary or appropriate for the administration of the affairs of the PVSART. All powers of the Corporation set forth in the Article of Agreement or these By-Laws, shall be vested in the Board.

Section 17. Executive Committee. The Board may, at any meeting of the Board of Directors, by vote of a majority of the number of Directors, elect an executive committee or other committees and may, by like vote, delegate thereto some or all of its powers except those which by law, the Articles of Agreement or these By-Laws it is prohibited from delegating. Except as the Board may otherwise determine, any such committee may make rules for the conduct of its business, but unless otherwise provided by the Board or in such rules, its business shall be conducted as nearly as possible in the same manner as is provided by these By-Laws for the Directors. The Board shall have the power to fill vacancies in, change the membership of, or disband, any such committee.

Section 18. Action by Consent. Any action by the Board or any committee may be taken without a meeting if a written or emailed consent thereto is transmitted by a quorum of the

Directors or a quorum of the members of the applicable committees and filed with the records of the meetings of the Directors. Such consent shall be treated for all purposes as a vote at a meeting.

Section 19. Honorary Directors, Advisors, Sponsors, and Friends of the Association. The Board may designate certain persons or groups of persons as honorary directors, advisory directors, sponsors, friends, or such other title as the Board deems appropriate. The Board may elect persons to those titles for such terms and on such conditions as the Board determines and may assign to such persons such responsibilities, duties, and privileges as the Board determine. Persons designated by these titles shall not be Directors for the purposes of these By-Laws.

Section 20. Conflict of Interest. Any possible conflict of interest on the part of any member of the Board or Officer of the Corporation shall be disclosed in writing to the Board and made a matter of record through an annual procedure and also when the interest involves a specific issue or transaction before the Board. Where the transaction involving a Director or Officer exceeds five hundred dollars (\$500) but is less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in a fiscal year, a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote approving the transaction is required. Where the transaction involved exceeds five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in a fiscal year, then a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote approving the transaction and publication of a legal notice in the required newspaper is required, together with written notice to the Director of Charitable Trust, Attorney General's Office. The minutes of the meeting shall reflect that a disclosure was made; that the interested Director and all other Directors with a pecuniary transaction with the Corporation during the fiscal year were absent during both the discussion and the voting on the transaction; and the actual vote itself. Every new member of the Board will be advised of this policy upon entering the duties of his or her office, and shall sign a statement of acknowledgment, understanding and agreement to this policy. The Board will comply with all requirements of New Hampshire laws dealing with pecuniary benefit transactions (NH RSA 7:19-a, II and 292:6-a) and all such laws are incorporated in full into these By-Laws and are attached as Attachment A. These requirements include, but are not limited to, (1) absolute prohibition on any loans to any Director or Officer of the Corporation; and (2) prohibition of any sale or lease (for a term greater than five years) or conveyance of real estate from an Officer or Director, or trustee without the prior approval of the probate court. These requirements extend to both direct and indirect financial interest, as defined by NH RSA 7:19-a, II and 292:6-a.

ARTICLE V - Administrative Officers

Section 1. Administrative Officers. The Administrative Officers of the Corporation shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Officers of the Corporation may also include one or more Assistant Treasurers and/or Assistant Secretaries. The Officers shall be elected or appointed annually as specified in Article V, Section 6. The Board may elect or appoint such other Officers as it deems desirable, such Officers to have authority and perform

the duties prescribed, from time to time, by the Board. The office of any official position may be combined and held by one (1) person.

Section 2. President. The President shall be a Director nominated by the Directors and elected by the Board. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and Members and shall determine the agenda of each meeting. The President shall serve on the Executive Committee and shall be an ex-officio member without vote on all other Board committees. The President shall be the administrator of the PVSART. The President, the Treasurer, or some other person specifically authorized by vote of the Board, may sign all deeds, leases, contracts, notes and/or other instruments to be executed on behalf of the PVSART. The President shall perform all the duties commonly incident to the office and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the Board may from time to time designate.

Section 3. Vice President. The Vice President shall be a Director nominated by the Directors and elected by the Board. The Vice President shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated to the position by the Board. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be a Director nominated by the Directors and elected by the Board. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of the funds of the PVSART and shall have and exercise under the supervision of the Board all the powers and duties commonly incident to the office. The Treasurer shall, with the President, have the power to sign all deeds, leases, contracts, notes and/or other instruments to be executed on behalf of the PVSART. The Treasurer shall have the custody of the corporate seal and of all the money, funds, valuable papers, and documents of the PVSART. The Treasurer shall deposit all the funds of the PVSART in such bank or banks, trust company or trust companies, or with such firm or firms doing a banking business as the Board may from time to time designate. The Treasurer may, on behalf of the PVSART, endorse for deposit or collection, all checks, notes, and other obligations payable to the PVSART or its order and may accept drafts on behalf thereof. He/she shall keep accurate books of account of all PVSART transactions, which books shall be the property of the PVSART, and together with all other of its property in her possession, shall be subject at all times to the inspection and control of the Board. All receipts and vouchers for payment made to the PVSART, and checks, drafts, notes, and other PVSART obligations for the payment of money by the PVSART shall be signed by the Treasurer except as the Board may otherwise specifically order. Checks and drafts need not be countersigned, unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

Section 5. Secretary. The Secretary of the PVSART shall be appointed by the Board annually at the Board's Annual Meeting and does not need to be a Director. The Secretary shall be present at all meetings of the Board, and shall keep accurate records, in books provided for that purpose, of the proceedings had at such meetings, which books shall respectively be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any Director. The Secretary shall perform all the duties commonly incident to the office and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the Board may from time to time designate. In the absence of the Secretary from any

meeting of the Board, a temporary Secretary may be appointed who shall record the proceedings thereof.

Section 6. Election and Term of Office. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be elected by the Board at the Board's Annual Meeting or as soon thereafter as feasible. New offices may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board. Each Officer shall hold office until the next annual election of the Board and until a successor shall have been duly elected or appointed and shall have qualified. The term of office shall be one (1) year. Election of the President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall take place at the annual Board meeting and shall be by ballot cast by qualified Directors. A majority of votes cast shall elect.

Section 7. Removal. Any officer elected by the Board may be removed by the Board by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the remaining Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of the PVSART would be served thereby.

Section 8. Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of the President because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the Board by majority vote for the unexpired portion of the term. A vacancy in any other office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, may be filled by the President for the unexpired portion of the term.

ARTICLE VI - Line Officers

Section 1. Election, Tenure and Compensation. The line officers of PVSART shall be a Captain and Lieutenants, the number of which shall be authorized by a majority vote of the Board. The Captain shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by and from the Active Members at the Annual Meeting each odd year and shall serve a two (2) year term. All other line officers shall serve one (1) year terms and shall be appointed by the Captain, subject to majority approval of the Board. Should the office of Captain become vacant during a term, the Board shall appoint a replacement Captain for the remainder of the term of office. Should any other line officer become vacant during a term, the Captain shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term of office subject to the majority approval of the Board of Directors. Line officers shall receive no compensation, but can be reimbursed for expenses incurred in their official capacity if approved by the Board. The Captain can serve consecutive terms without limits. The Board may create such other Line Officers as it deems desirable, such Line Officers to have authority and perform the duties prescribed, from time to time, by the Board. Such Line Officer's to serve one (1) year terms and appointed by the Captain.

Section 2. Powers and Duties of the Captain. The Captain shall have full control of the members, equipment and effects of the team while on incidents, training and drills and shall be the operating officer of PVSART. The Captain shall be responsible for the keeping and filing of all training records and field reports of PVSART and such other duties as shall hereafter be

prescribed. The Captain will be responsible for the safety of all members and to be certain all members have appropriate training.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of the Lieutenants. The Lieutenants shall be responsible for such duties as may be assigned by the Captain.

Section 4. Removal. All Line Officers shall be subject to removal at any time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board for any cause. All Line Officers, shall hold office at the discretion of the Board of Directors or of the officers appointing them. Seniority, where Line Officers have the same rank will be based on tenure in the position.

ARTICLE VII - Committees

Section 1. Committees. The Board shall appoint from their own numbers an Executive Committee and may appoint such other committees as they may from time to time deem necessary or advisable, including but not limited to committees to deal with fundraising, financial management, long-range planning, and other matters affecting the PVSART, and may delegate such powers and duties thereto as the Board may deem advisable to the extent permitted by law. At any meeting of a committee, a quorum for the transaction of all business properly before the meeting shall consist of a majority of the appointed members of such committees. Each committee shall maintain a written record of its meetings and present reports to the Board at its next meeting.

Section 2. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two (2) other Directors elected by the Board. The Executive Committee will have the authority to make final decisions on all matters related to the PVSART. The Executive Committee will have primary responsibility for creating and monitoring the PVSART's budget. The Executive Committee shall report to the Board as provided in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3. Nominating Committee. At least eight weeks before the Annual Meeting, a Nominating Committee for membership of the Board shall be appointed by the President. The Nominating Committee shall offer the names of the Directors to be selected or to fill vacancies at the Annual Meeting and the Team Captain on odd years. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) Directors and up to two (2) Active and/or Support Members.

Section 4. Standing Committees. Unless otherwise provided herein, the Directors may appoint either Directors or Members to any standing committee. Such appointment shall be for a one (1) year term unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.

- A. Development Committee. This committee will be responsible for identifying, educating and soliciting donors to the PVSART.
- B. Public Relations Committee. This committee will be responsible for increasing public awareness of the PVSART.

- C. Education/Program Committee. This committee will be responsible for planning special events, seminars, training events and other programs of the PVSART.

ARTICLE VIII - Contracts, Deposits, Funds and Dues

Section 1. Contracts. The Board may authorize any Officer, Officers, agent, or agents of the PVSART, in addition to the Officers so authorized by these By-Laws, to enter into contracts or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the PVSART; and such authority may be general or confined to specific instance.

Section 2. Deposits. All funds of the PVSART shall be deposited promptly to the credit of the PVSART and in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board may select.

Section 3. Gifts. The Board may accept on behalf of the PVSART any contribution, gift, or grant for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the PVSART.

Section 4. Dues. The Board will establish annual dues for each membership category which will be payable on or before the Annual Meeting. Failure to pay the dues within three (3) months after the Annual Meeting is cause for dismissal.

ARTICLE IX - Books and Records

The PVSART shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board, and committees having any of the authority of the Board, and shall keep at the registered or principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the members of the Board and members. All books and records of the PVSART may be inspected by any Member for any purposes at any reasonable time. The Board, if it deems prudent, shall cause an audit of the records of the PVSART to be made each year by a competent auditor or audit committee.

ARTICLE X - Personal Liability

The Directors and Officers of the PVSART shall not be personally liable for any debt, liability or obligation of the PVSART. All persons, corporations or other entities extending credit to, contracting with, or having any claim against the PVSART may look only to the funds and property of the PVSART for the payment of any debt, damages, judgment or decree, or of any money that may otherwise come due or payable to them from the PVSART.

ARTICLE XI - Indemnification

Each Director and each Officer of the PVSART and each former Director or Officer of the PVSART and their respective heirs, executors and administrators shall be indemnified by the PVSART against all costs and expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defenses of any action, suit or proceeding, in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of having been a Director or Officer of the PVSART, except in relation to matters as to which any such Director or Officer shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty. The foregoing indemnification shall include reimbursement of all costs and expenses actually and necessarily incurred in setting any such action, suit and proceeding or in satisfaction of such action, suit, or proceeding or in satisfaction to any rights to which any such Director or Officer may otherwise be entitled as a matter of law or otherwise.

ARTICLE XII - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the PVSART shall run from January 1 to December 31 each year.

ARTICLE XIII - Gender, Singular and Plurals

The use of the masculine, feminine, or neuter gender, and the use of the singular or plural shall not be given the effect of any exclusion or limitation and the use of the words "person" or "party" shall mean and include any individual, trust, corporation, partnership or other entity.

ARTICLE XIV - Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members at a regular or special meeting of the members after thirty (30) days written notice of the proposed changes to all Active and Support Members.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned set their hands to the original bylaws on March 22, 2005:

Allan R. Clark, Incorporator
Darlene R. Godbout, Incorporator
Jeffrey J. Ingalls, Incorporator
Gordon Johnk, Incorporator
William L. Mead, Incorporator
Gareth P. Slattery, Incorporator
Steven D. Smith, Incorporator

Marti Talbot, Incorporator

On April 13, 2011 at the annual meeting of the membership of PVSART after being noticed pursuant to the then current By-Laws, the membership voted to amend the original By-Laws in their entirety and substitute this version. The undersigned certifies that at the above stated regular meeting that a quorum was present and that a majority of the members present approved these amended By-Laws.

John Hansen, Secretary

On June 24, 2020 at the special meeting of the membership of PVSART in lieu of the annual meeting after being noticed pursuant to the then current By-Laws, the membership voted to amend the original By-Laws in their entirety and substitute this version. The undersigned certifies that at the above stated regular meeting that a quorum was present and that a majority of the members present approved these amended By-Laws.

Christopher Whiton, Secretary

Attachment A to By-Laws of the Pemigewasset Valley Search and Rescue Association

7:19-a Regulation of Certain Transactions Involving Directors, Officers, and Trustees of Charitable Trusts.

I. Definitions. In this section:

(a) "Director, officer, or trustee" means a director, officer, or trustee of a charitable trust.

(b) "Financial interest" means an interest in a transaction exceeding \$500 in value for any officer, director, or trustee, on an annual aggregate basis. An "indirect" financial interest arises where the transaction involves a person or entity of which a director, officer, or trustee, or a member of the immediate family of a director, officer, or trustee, is a proprietor, partner, employee, or officer.

(c) "Pecuniary benefit transaction" means a transaction with a charitable trust in which a director, officer, or trustee of the charitable trust has a financial interest, direct or indirect. However, the following shall not be considered as pecuniary benefit transactions:

(1) Reasonable compensation for services of an executive director, and expenses incurred in connection with official duties of a director, officer, or trustee;

(2) A benefit provided to a director, officer, or trustee or member of the immediate family thereof if:

(A) The benefits are provided or paid as part of programs, benefits, or payments to members of the general public; and

(B) The charitable trust has adopted written eligibility criteria for such benefit in accordance with its bylaws or applicable laws; and

(C) The director, trustee, or family member meets all of the eligibility criteria for receiving such benefit;

(3) A continuing transaction entered into by a charitable trust, merely because a person with a financial interest therein subsequently becomes a director, officer, or trustee of the charitable trust.

(d) "Charitable trust" does not include, for purposes of this section only, an organization qualified as a private foundation under the applicable provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

II. A pecuniary benefit transaction shall be prohibited unless it is in the best interest of the charitable trust and unless all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The transaction is for goods or services purchased or benefits provided in the ordinary course of the business of the charitable trust, for the actual or reasonable value of the goods or services or for a discounted value, and the transaction is fair to the charitable trust;

(b) The transaction receives affirmative votes from at least a 2/3 majority of all the disinterested members of the governing board of the charitable trust, which majority shall also equal or exceed any quorum requirement specified in the bylaws of the charitable trust:

(1) After full and fair disclosure of the material facts of the transaction to the governing board and after notice and full discussion of the transaction by the board;

(2) Without participation, voting, or presence of any director, officer, or trustee with a financial interest in the transaction or who has had a pecuniary benefit transaction with the charitable trust in the same fiscal year, except as the board may require to answer questions regarding the transaction; and

(3) A record of the action on the matter is made and recorded in the minutes of the governing board;

(c) The charitable trust maintains a list disclosing each and every pecuniary benefit transaction, including the names of those to whom the benefit accrued and the amount of the benefit, and keeps such list available for inspection by members of the governing board and contributors to the charitable trust. The list shall also be reported to the director of charitable trusts each year as part of the charitable trust's annual report required under RSA 7:28;

(d) If the transaction, or the aggregate of transactions with the same director, officer, or trustee within one fiscal year, is in the amount of \$5,000 or more, the charitable trust publishes notice thereof in a newspaper of general circulation in the community in which the charitable trust's principal New Hampshire office is located, (or if there is no such office, then in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the state), and gives written notice to the director of charitable trusts, before consummating the transaction. At a minimum, such notice shall state that it is given in compliance with this section and shall include the name of the charitable trust, the name of any director, officer, or trustee receiving pecuniary benefit from the transaction, the nature of the transaction, and the specific dollar amount of the transaction.

III. Every director, officer, or trustee, or member of the immediate family of such director, officer, or trustee, who engages in a pecuniary benefit transaction with a charitable trust shall provide copies of all contracts, payment records, vouchers, other financial records or other financial documents at the request of the director of charitable trusts in accordance with RSA 7:24. All documents so provided may be disclosed to the public for inspection and copying, subject to applicable confidentiality laws.

IV. Every charitable trust shall adopt policies pertaining to pecuniary benefit transactions and conflicts of interest.

V. No charitable trust shall lend money or property to its directors, officers, or trustees. Any director, officer, or trustee who assents to or participates in the making of any such loan shall be jointly and severally liable to the charitable trust for the amount of such loan until it is repaid.

VI. No charitable trust shall sell, lease for a term of greater than 5 years, purchase, or convey any real estate or interest in real estate to or from an officer, director, or trustee without the prior approval of the probate court after a finding that the sale or lease is fair to the charitable trust.

However, this paragraph shall not apply to a bona fide gift of an interest in real estate to a charitable trust by a director, officer, or trustee of the charitable trust.

VII. A pecuniary benefit transaction undertaken in violation of this section is voidable. The director of charitable trusts may investigate complaints regarding pecuniary benefit transactions and if, after an investigation pursuant to RSA 7:24, the director determines that a pecuniary benefit transaction is in violation of this section, the director may institute appropriate proceedings under RSA 7:28-f to enforce these provisions.

VIII. Any member of the governing board of a charitable trust shall have standing to petition, pursuant to RSA 491:22, for a declaratory judgment that one or more pecuniary benefit transactions of the charitable trust are void.

IX. The provisions of this section shall not apply to transactions between a charitable trust and its incorporators, members, or other contributors who are not also directors, officers, or trustees of the charitable trust, provided that such transactions are fair to the charitable trust.

X. Notwithstanding subparagraph I(c) of this section, in the case of hospitals, "pecuniary benefit transaction" shall not include reasonable compensation for professional services of members of the hospital's professional medical or nursing staff who also serve as members of the governing board of the hospital, if persons receiving such compensation do not constitute more than 25 percent of the membership of such board or the governing board of the charitable trust which owns the hospital.

XI. Notwithstanding subparagraph I(c) of this section, in the case of educational organizations normally maintaining a regular faculty and curriculum and normally having a regularly enrolled body of pupils or students in attendance at the place where their educational activities are regularly carried on, "pecuniary benefit transaction" shall not include reasonable compensation for professional services of members of the organization's faculty and staff who also serve as members of the governing board of the educational organization if such persons do not constitute more than 25 percent of the membership of such board.

Source. 1996, 302:2. 1997, 184:2, 3, eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

292:6-a Board of Directors of Charitable Nonprofit Corporations.

In the interest of encouraging diversity of discussion, connection with the public, and public confidence, the board of directors of a charitable nonprofit corporation shall have at least 5 voting members, who are not of the same immediate family or related by blood or marriage. No employee of a charitable nonprofit corporation shall hold the position of chairperson or presiding officer of the board. This section shall not apply to those nonprofit corporations in existence on August 10, 1996, until one year after August 10, 1996, nor to any organization qualified as a private foundation under the applicable provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code, nor to religious organizations, churches, or the integrated auxiliaries thereof or to conventions or associations of churches. The provisions of this section may be waived with the approval of the director of charitable trusts after application for such waiver.

Source. 1996, 302:3. 1997, 184:5, eff. Jan. 1, 1998.