

APPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
1pm – 4pm
State House – Room 11



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

Lucy Cannon-Neel
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COMMISSION

Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupré
Walker Brook
Shirly Hook
Patricia Johnson
Mark Mitchell
Trudy Ann Parker

Members Present: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, secretary; Andrew Beaupré, Walker Brook, Shirly Hook, Patricia Johnson, Trudy Ann Parker, Mark Mitchell.

Guests: Michael Descoteaux, Don Parker, Doug Brent, Trudy Thomas, Laura Trishman, Rebecca Bailey, Laura Treishmann, Carol Irons, Dale Azaria, Paul Bunnell, John Moody, Nathan Pero, Peggy Fullerton, James Masland, Cheryl O’Neil, Emily Cryan, Jess Robinson.

Lucy brought the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Introductions were made. She then read Notes on Meeting Ground Rules.

1. Selection of Chair

Jeff moved to table the selection of chair until next month. Walker seconded. All agreed.

2. Public Comment

Carol Irons requested that the commission consider developing teaching camp activities on Abenaki woods lore for children.

John asked for a copy of the Notes on the Meeting Ground Rules.

Peggy from Koasek of the Koas read her statement concerning the applicant’s name, the receiving of native corn and of discussion of splintered groups.

Paul, Nathan, and Rebecca commented on the statement read by the previous speaker.

3. Revisions/ Changes

No revisions or changes.

4. Approve September 17th minutes

Andy moved to approve the minutes as written. Shirly seconded. All agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resubmission of Koasek Traditional Band Application

Commission members exchanged questions regarding the application. Andy noted he found 25 different names of the tribe from the received application. Andy stated Koasek of North American Inc. had both active and inactive trademarks. Discussion was held regarding the various names. Shirly read from page 6 of their application “Name does not make a nation...”

Walker asked the legal issue of names. Dale stated she would delve into the difference between trademark and Domestic non-profit corporation. Trudy appealed to the applicant about considering an alteration of their name. Lucy asked Paul why it is important to keep the name. Paul stated the reason to keep the name is because they had it first. James Masland stated their tribal name has become an emotional issue. The subject will be addressed with tribal members. Jeff inquired about the possible reaction of the legislation to the closeness between the tribal names. Discussion was held regarding the public hearing in November. Charlene stated her concern regarding negative notes regarding persons not members of their tribe. Discussion was held regarding redacting. Dale stated the tribe may request the commission to remove these pages from their document. Chief Pero wishes the statements to remain in their document. Shirley commented the applicant to remove emails from Chief Nancy.

Lucy moved to break at 2:20pm.
The commission reconvened at 2:35pm.

John Moody gave a brief Abenaki history on tribal names.

2. New Open Meeting Law – Dale Aaria

Dale passed out the open meeting law. She then discussed certain items on the document such as roll call voting, posting of the agenda, the posting of minutes. Walker inquired about using executive session for personal issues. Dale stated personnel issues not subject to executive session but sensitive items that is not open to the public such as specific archeological sites or genealogical names.

3. Abenaki Heritage Gathering

Shirly passed out Louise Beil's statement. 538 attended. The timeline Louise wished for 2015 is June 27th and June 28th. Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Strategic Planning for 2014-2105

Discussion was held regarding strategic planning 2014-2015. Charlene read last year's strategic planning. Lucy will work with Orleans County's two supervisory unions for VII tribal education. Discussion was held. Goals carried over were: Title VII education, Abenaki Heritage Gathering, Scholarships, Archeological Process, Meeting with the Governor and Co-op craft store. Discussion was held regarding scholarships. Andy emailed the two drafts of scholarship legislation. Discussion was held regarding Vermont Native American secondary education. It was decided to change *Creating Scholarships* to *Higher Education Initiative*. Discussion was held regarding Abenaki education for children's camps. Mark discussed basic education of reading and writing. Discussion was held establishing new action goals. Discussion was held regarding interacting with tribes and creating grant writing and business planning classes.

2. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be November 12, 2014 at 1pm at the State House. Discussion was held regarding not receiving the third scholar report as this time. A fail safe has been built to state that if the scholar report is not received by November 5th, to reschedule the open forum for December 10th.

3. Announcements

None.

Future Items

Native American Commerce – Michael Descoteaux

Sponsoring grant writing and business plan classes

Action Plans

Moved to Adjourned at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene McManis

Secretary