

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Members Present: Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Walker Brook, Shirly Hook, Mark Mitchell and Carol Irons

Members Absent: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Andrew Beaupré, Trudy Ann Parker.

Guests: John Moody, Sharon; Doug Bent, Braintree; Rich Holschuh, Brattleboro; Duncan Matthewson, CCV; Jess Robinson, VT VDHP; Taber Morrell VT VDHP, Jennifer Lavoie, VT VDHP.

The meeting was brought to order by Vice-Chair Jeffrey Benay at 1:14 pm at 115 State Street, Room 10.

vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

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COMMISSION

Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair
Andrew Beaupré
Walker Brook
Shirly Hook
Mark Mitchell
Trudy Ann Parker
Carol Irons
Cheryl O'Neil

1. Voices of the Koas

Voices of the Koas did not perform due to a schedule conflict.

2. Public Comment

Jess Robinson extended an offer to the Commission in regards to Vermont archaeology month in September. If the Commission as a whole, or if individuals would like contribute, please let him know.

John Moody expressed his concern over the proposed Iberdrola wind project in the southern Green Mountain forest. He encouraged Commission members to explore the site in order to have a better understanding of the project.

Rich Holschuh inquired as to the Commission's stance on reports such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report that just came out of Canada and a similar report from Maine. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission members in Maine were appointed to investigate the treatment of indigenous children in the foster care system, and similarly in Canada, to investigate the treatment of indigenous children in boarding schools. These reports contained troublesome information, and Rich was interested in the Commission's viewpoint. Several Commission members felt very strongly in regards to this topic and there was discussion of putting the topic on the agenda for future meetings.

3. Revisions / Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes or revisions to the agenda.

4. Approve May 13, 2015 minutes

Walker Brook made a motion to accept the May 13, 2015 minutes. Shirley Hook seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Cultural Environmental Conference (Charlie Megeso)

Jeffrey Benay will contact Charlie and invite him to the September meeting to discuss, until that point the topic will be tabled.

2. Action Plan

a. Abenaki Heritage Gathering

Shirly Hook advised that planning for the gathering is going very well. With the help of Walker Brook, they were able to secure a new food vendor. Shirly also spoke with Charlene McManis, the PSA's and other promotional materials were on track for distribution. Mark Mitchell commented that the event information is on several social media outlets. Thank you to Rebecca Bailey and Charlene for getting the word out.

b. Archaeological Process

Topic tabled until the next meeting

c. Abenaki Artifacts Guidelines / d. Anti-looting on Abenaki Artifacts

Topics tabled until the next meeting.

e. Native Youth College Program

Walker Brook and Jeffrey Benay spoke about collaborating on getting information about the various college programs to native youth and their families. They spoke about creating a brochure and providing that brochure to guidance counselors throughout the state. The hope being that if the brochure is right there, the counselors can advise youth about the various programs.

f. VCNA Youth Representation

Jeffrey Benay summarized the information given by Dale Azaria, General Counsel VDHP, at the May meeting. Jeff reiterated that youth can submit an application, go through the interview process and be appointed to become a Commission member. Walker Brook discussed if the information regarding the college program and VCNA youth representation could be announced at the Abenaki Heritage Gathering. Commission members agreed this was a good idea.

g. Abenaki Cultural Heritage Week

Mark Mitchell advised he has heard back from Walker and the Koasek of the Koas, that they had youth that would be interested in performing. Members discussed various ways they can spread the word about the cultural heritage week.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Next Meetings

Commission members decided to keep the current meeting format for the next fiscal year's meetings. Meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and meetings will not be held in July, August or December. Commission members also decided to hold all future meetings at 133 State Street. VDHP will reserve rooms for these meetings. The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2015 at 133 State Street Room 410 in Montpelier.

2. Announcements

John Moody advised on the VCNA website, there are several meeting minutes that still show as a draft and not approved minutes. Jess Robinsons and Jenni Lavoie advised they will look into the matter.

Rich Holschuh advised that the battlefield investigation with Kevin McBride is on-going at Turner Falls. Kevin is very interested in speaking with tribes or elders that have information to share regarding the history of that area in 1676.

Adjourn

Walker Brook made a motion to adjourn and Shirly Hook seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Lavoie