

UNAPPROVED

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 15, 2013

Members Present: Carlton Bertrand Jr., Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Jeffrey Benay; Shirly Hook; Lucy Cannon Neel; Trudy Ann Parker.  
Via Phone: Andrew Beaupre  
Absent: Luke Willard, Chair; Dave Van Deusen

Guests: John Moody; Doug Bent; Donald H. Parker; Carol Irons; Duncan Mathewson; Giovanna Peebles, VHP; Auburn Watersong, Vermont Network.

The meeting was brought to order by Vice-Chair Joe Bertrand at 1:08pm at BGS – 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT. 05602.

[vcnaa.vermont.gov](http://vcnaa.vermont.gov)

CONTACT  
(802) 754-2216  
[lukewillard@live.com](mailto:lukewillard@live.com)

1. **Approve minutes**

Andy moved to accept the minutes as amended. Joe seconded. All agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Abenaki Heritage Celebration Week (in May)**

Charlene passed out the posters and introduction letters to the members and guests. PSAs (Public Service Announcement) will be sent out to all television stations, including the public television network, the Times-Argus, The Bridge, The World, some radio stations. Other suggestions: Seven Days, County Courier, St. Albans Messenger, Caledonian Record and The Barton Chronicle. Charlene will be speaking at WGDR at Goddard College on Abenaki Heritage Week. Also will email the poster and information to Giovanna for VHP and Auburn Watersong for Vermont Network. Unknown as to who will be at the rally. The Celebration can have music, drumming, demonstration, but no vending. "The event is the last day of Abenaki heritage celebration week theme. "Keeping Abenaki Legacy Alive in Me." The activities are demonstrations of crafts, music and dance for the community to experience." Discussion was held regarding having an art festival next year. The Chiefs have been notified about this event. No podium or mikes have been ordered. More posters were passed out.

2. **Commission's report on the Koasek Traditional Band of the Sovereign Abenaki Nation – Next Steps**

Joe asked what would be the next procedure to sending out the commission's final report. Giovanna read Title One page five "(5) The applicant may file additional supporting documentation for reconsideration within one year after receipt of the notice of denial. (8) All proceedings, applications, and supporting documentation shall be public except material



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exempt pursuant to Giovanna will send the report to Nathan Pero via paper copy. She will send an electronic copy of the report John Moody, along with drafting a cover letter on behalf of the VCNAA for Joe to sign for the House Committee of Housing General, and Military Affairs and Senate Committee of General, Housing and Economic Development. (7) The commission shall provide a detailed written report of its findings and conclusions to the applicant and the legislative committees along with a recommendation that the general assembly recognize or deny recognition to the applicant as a Native American Indian tribe. Andy asked what is the commission's wishes regarding the email from Nathan regarding clarification of his homeland. Discussion was held regarding Luke's absence. Discussion was held regarding agenda posting, emails sent to commission members and stipends.

### **3. Replacing Charlene as Commission Secretary/Application and review process for new Commissioner(s)**

Discussion was held regarding the ending terms of Charlene, Andy and Shirly. All can reapply, subject to 852 (b) "A member may serve for no more than two consecutive terms, unless there are insufficient eligible candidates." Secretary is voluntary from the commission members. Giovanna explained the process of commission application and review. Six applicants applied last year. Discussion was held regarding having the secretary separate from the commission. Giovanna will check with John Kessler the possibility of having a volunteer secretary and the possibility of compensating the secretary. The commission will ask for the commissioner to attend the next meeting to discuss these issues.

Joe adjourned the meeting for a break at 2:17pm. The commission commenced at 2:22pm.

### **4. VT Archeology Month (September)**

Giovanna gave a presentation regarding the Archeology Month in September. Discussion was held on how the commission could participate in this event. Proposals need to be in the VHP by June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be in the event calendar. Discussions were held regarding possible proposals. Duncan Mathewson volunteered his fall class at CCV in Winooski. Discussion was held notifying the recognized tribes to see if they had possible proposals.

### **5. Abenaki Scholarship Guide: Dissemination and Discussion**

Jeff gave a presentation regarding available scholarships for Abenaki children. One was the Vermont Space Consortium and the other was STEM. Discussion was held. Joe suggested the scholarship information be placed on our website [www.vcnaa.vermont.gov](http://www.vcnaa.vermont.gov).

### **6. Improving Communication Among the Commission**

Much discussion was held regarding the process of the commission and the issues presented. Question was asked what the next step regarding organizing the commission. Question was asked as to why the Chair has not been to the last three meetings. Discussion was held regarding the agenda. It was decided to have a drafted agenda sent out with the unapproved minutes of the last meeting. Members could add to the agenda before the next meeting. It was decided to have Joe to call Luke regarding this situation this week.

Discussion was held regarding continuing the business of the commission. Discussion was held regarding Nate's email. Regarding answering Nathan's email, Joe will email back

asking if Nathan would attend the May meeting with all questions regarding resubmitting his application. Discussion was held regarding having by-laws on file and creating a mission statement. Jeff was asked to if the Abenaki Advisory council have by-laws. The answer was no. The Abenaki Advisory Council dealt with economic development. Jeff gave a brief history of the first commission dealings with the legislature.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Network for Domestic/Sexual Violence**

Auburn thanked the commission and passed out a packet on her program. She is wondering if her program could use our state-wide reach and likewise use her state-wide reach, and maybe partnered with this effort of Domestic/Sexual Violence against women. Discussion was held. It was decided to have Auburn return to our next meeting for a more extensive discussion regarding this program. Giovanna will mail another packet to Andy. Discussion was held. Two programs Auburn works on are WISE and VOICES. Discussion was held regarding administrative support of the commission, possibly using Human Services for future portfolios.

### **2. Fred Wiseman's proposal back in November 2010**

Charlene gave a brief history of Fred coming to the commission in November with 3 projects he was working. Fred contacted Charlene to see about coming to the commission again regarding his cultural center. Discussion was held. Fred has been asking to be on the agenda since February. Charlene will email Fred's indigenous center to all the commission members. He will be notified on the next meeting date and placed on the agenda.

### **3. Meeting times and Locations 2013 – 2014**

Discussion was held regarding dates and times for the commission meeting. The per diem is based on the amended law 853 – 6 times in year. The Advisory Council did not accept per diem while in session. The commission can meet as often as it wishes but only 6 times. Discussion was held about meeting dates. The commission decided to meet 9 times a year – September thru November and January thru June. The commission may looked into having a board training retreat in July. It was decided to have the commission meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1pm to 4pm. Giovanna will send an email about the commission meeting dates and let the applicants be aware of these dates. The agenda will be available seven days before the meeting. Charlene will send a drafted agenda to everyone for review. Discussion was held about placing the agenda in the newspapers.

### **4. Announcements**

Jeff announced two science scholarships aimed at Native Americans.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene McManis  
Secretary