

VCNAA Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2011



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COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
Luke Willard
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COMMISSION
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Melody Walker Brook
Dawn Macie
Takara Matthews
Nathan E. Pero
Shirly Hook
David K. Vanslette
Fred W. Wiseman

Members Present: Luke Willard, Chairman; Melody Walker, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Dawn Macie, Takara Matthews, Shirly Hook, David Vanseltte, Fred W. Wiseman.

Absent: Nathan Pero

Guests: Miss Lucy Neel, Holland; Chief Nancy Millette Doucet, Newbury; Mark Doucet, Newbury; Diane McInerney, Staff; Chief April Merrill, Missisquoi; David Skinas, Northfield; Roger Longtoe Sheehan, Elnu; Didia Cazaudunre, Manchester; Billie Largy, Derby; Chief Don Stevens, Shelburne; Dr. Fred Wiseman; John Moody.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Luke Willard at 1pm at The Statehouse, Room 10 in Montpelier, Vermont.

1. Approve minutes of January 4, 2011

Charlene moved to approve the minutes with the following amendment in section 2 (Review Status: Koasek of the Koas). 'Charlene moved to ask the petitioner to present additional specific information in a time-frame specified by the Commission. Fred seconded. After much discussion, the motion was denied at vote because not all scholar reports were complete.' Fred seconded the motion. All agreed.

2. Abenaki Cultural Heritage Week in May

Charlene gave a short presentation in regards to reviving Abenaki Cultural Heritage Week which is the first week in May. The event occurred for a few years but invariably disappeared. She spoke of reviving the event back to Vermont by having the Governor write a proclamation. Having a poster contest was mentioned as a way of spreading the word regarding this event. Creating window displays about Vermont Abenakis was also suggested along with going to schools, libraries and town halls.

Diane McInerney was recognized and introduced Noelle MacKay, the new Commissioner of Economic, Housing, and Community Affairs which the Division of Historic Preservation is under.

Jeff Benay was recognized. He requested that the Commission allow Missisquoi to distribute its application for recognition at this time due to time constraints. There were no objections. Chief April Merrill distributed the

applications to Commission members. She mentioned that this process has been ongoing since 1976 and that this day would have been the 76th birthday of her father, Chief Homer St. Francis. Chief April requested that the Commission consider Bill Haviland, Peter Thomas, and Kevin Dann from the Scholar's list to review the application.

4. Briefing on the initiation of the legislative process re: Elnu and Nulhegan

Luke gave a brief update on the status of the Commission's recommendation in the legislature. Luke and Melody gave testimony before the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs. A press conference was held to announce the recommendations. Bills have been introduced in the Senate and House.

5. Koasek Application: Review Update

The Commission discussed an addendum to Section 2 of the Koasek application that was submitted by Chief Nancy Doucet. The Commission also discussed the Scholar's Review submitted recently by Eloise Beil as well as Bill Haviland's revised review which is now in a format compliant with the Review Panel Instruction & Reference Guide. Luke asked if the commission has gathered enough information regarding the application to make a decision to approve or deny the Koasek of the Koas application. All agreed that a decision could be made at this time. David moved to recommend Koasek for recognition. Takara seconded. Luke asked for a roll call vote – Yes to approve – No to deny. Fred (Yes). Melody (Yes). Takara (Yes). Luke (Yes). Charlene (Yes). Dawn (Yes). A draft of the Commission's report to the legislature will be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

6. Missisquoi application

Melody advised that Kevin Dann and Peter Thomas are both qualified to review genealogy. More discussion was held in regards to the overall expertise of Dann, Thomas, and Haviland. Charlene moved to appoint Kevin Dann, Peter Thomas, and Bill Haviland to review the Missisquoi application. Fred seconded. All agreed. Luke will be the point person for the application. All eligible Commissioners are expected to review the application. Luke will assign sections of focus to Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming meeting locations:

February 15th in Randolph (2nd Statewide Forum 12-4pm - Potluck)

March 15th at the State House in Montpelier (1-3:30pm)

April 19th in Swanton (3rd Statewide Forum 12-4pm - Potluck)

May 17th at the Forest Service in Rutland (4th Statewide Forum 12-4pm - Potluck)

June 21st at the Firehouse in Burlington (5th Statewide Forum 12-4pm - Potluck)

John Moody was recognized. John mentioned that the new New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs meetings were also being held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at approximately the same time. Luke noted that our monthly meeting time was in place months before the New Hampshire Commission had its introductory meeting. No changes will be made at this time.

Professor Fred Wiseman was recognized. He spoke about the creation of a virtual museum website. Discussion ensued. Professor Wiseman and Fred will explore the possibilities of this enhanced website.

John Moody was recognized. John asked about the procedure for accessing applications for State recognition. Luke explained that we are currently waiting for clarification from legislative counsel. The applications are public record but the necessary steps must be taken to ensure that information that is exempt from public record is dealt with properly. This is a Commission with no budget so this matter must be handled by the Legislature and/or Historic Preservation.

The Commission adjourned at 2:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Charlene McManis, Secretary