

UNAPPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 11th, 2014



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

COMMISSION
Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupre
Walker Brook
Dave Van Deusen
Shirly Hook
Patricia Johnson
Trudy Ann Parker

Members Present: Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair, Charlene McManis, Secretary, Andrew Beaupre, Walker Brook, Dave Van Deusen, Shirly Hook, Pat Johnson.

On Phone: n/a

Absent: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair, Trudy Ann Parker.

Guests: Chief Nate Pero, Fairlee; John Moody, Sharon; Chief Paul Bunnell, Weare, N.H., Doug Bent, Carol Irons, Duncan Mattewson, CCV – Middlebury, Dale Azaria, DHP.

The meeting was brought to order by Jeff Benay at 1:08 pm at 133 State Street, Basement Room 21, Montpelier.

1. Public Comment

John stated five wind projects have collapsed in Vermont and New Hampshire so we honor Carol Irons in her efforts for this.

2. Revisions/Changes

The commission added Boy Scouts, UVM letter and executive session under new business.

3. Approving April 9th and May 14th 2014 minutes

Andy moved to approve the April 9th minutes. Charlene seconded. Andy moved to amend the May 14th minutes. Shirly seconded. Everyone agreed to both minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resubmission of Koasek Traditional Band Application

Andy did a recap of the scholars list. Melody Walker-Brook, Colin Calloway, David Steward-Smith, & Giovanna Vitelli no not wish to be included in the scholars list. Pat stated Fred Wiseman is unable to be part of scholar list. Peter Thomas, Scott McLaughlin and Lisa Neuman wished to be part of the scholar list but cannot serve on the Koasek application. William Haviland, Cedric Woods, and Paul Tamburro have not responded at this time. John Moody, Niels Rinehart, Angela Labrador, Kathleen Bragdon-Brown, & Eloise Beil are on the scholar list. Recap of the previous scholars for the application: John Moody, Angela Labrador & Neil Reinhardt. Discussion was held regarding the scholars. Shirly moved to amend that the scholars

for this application to be Kathleen Bragdon-Brown, Eloise Beil and John Moody. Walker seconded. All agreed. Discussion was held regarding prejudicial issues by scholars. Discussion was held regarding the timeline for the application. Nate stated the tribe will accept the scholars that the commission suggested. Andy will contact Trudy Thomas DHP about mailing the two application packets to Kathleen & Eloise. Nate will mail their packet to John Moody.

2. Abenaki Heritage Gathering

Moccasin Tracks, a radio station, will promote the Gathering. The list for lodging and campgrounds will be sent shortly. The price is \$5.00 per person, \$3.00 per child with Native people attending for free. Pat contacted WCAX, WPTZ, Channel 22 and Channel 44. Discussion was held regarding the event links for Maritime Museum. The current poster was passed around to view. Nate stated Mike Tenney has the Maritime Museum poster to make copies for the information stations in Vermont. Charlene will check on the World, Times-Argus and Seven Days. Pat will check on the Burlington Free Press and St. Albans Messenger. Discussion was held regarding attendance. Carol created the event questionnaire and sent it to Eloise.

3. Native American Issue Candidates

Dave had created the politician questionnaire. Discussion was held regarding the timeline for this questionnaire to be completed, sent and tallied. A sub-committee of Charlene & Walker will tweak the survey. Discussion was held regarding how to distribute the survey to the political candidates. Charlene will look into the general assembly link for the candidates and email the survey. Andy volunteered to assist in correlating the data. Discussion was held regarding sending the results to the tribes and place it on the website by August 1st. The commission will inquire Dale about placing the results on the VCNA website. Nate will be sent the completed survey. The native license plates scholarships for the Indian Scholarship will be one of questions. Discussion was held regarding one of the questions.

The commission moved to break at 2:06.

The commission resumed the meeting at 2:20pm

4. Action Plan

A. Explore title VII Indian Education for Inclusion in the Orleans county School system.

Jeff gave the good news. Nulhegan received a letter from the Federal govt. They received Title VII in the amount of approximately \$4,500.00 for Orleans Central. Other groups, if they wish, can ask our help in requesting Title VII.

B. Establishing Scholarships

Andy passed out the legislation bills for the scholarships. Charlene asked for more information regarding the artwork of the license plate. The commission had discussed having an art competition with Native children. Discussion was held regarding how the monies are distributed. Discussion was held regarding getting representatives to support the bills. Jeff stated the commission members should speak with their local representatives about supporting their bill. Discussion was held regarding having the recipient pay forward by working for the state. Discussion was held regarding speaking with the four tribes about this scholarship fund.

C. Jim Petersen plaque

Jeff read the inscription of the plaque: *It appreciation of the outstanding contributions to the history, archeology, and state recognition of the Abenaki peoples of Vermont. With gratitude for the implementation of the principles of equality; respect for human rights and values; and dedication to the objectives of multiculturalism.* Jim's widow will attend the gathering at noon on June 28th to receive the plaque. Discussion was held regarding using the auditorium.

D. Archeological Notification Process

Andy passed out modified version of the process. Andy received responses from Giovanna and Don Stevens. Andy went through the policy. Dave stated the policy should state "written documentation and not emails. Discussion was held regarding the permission of private landowners' notification on the discovery of archeological find. Discussion was held. Jeff asked what would be our next steps. VCNAA is has been remove from the data flow of notification, deferred to the tribes in the policy. VCNAA only footprint is writing the policy. Discussion was held regarding hiring a state services Level 14 position. Next step is to send it to DHP for question. DHP will meet again and return documentation to VCNAA. Dave asked at what point will the VCNAA take other measures to push this policy forward. Discussion was held regarding tribal archeological officer. Andy moved the commission approve the policy as written with the note about no emails for notification. Dave seconded. All agreed.

Meeting with Governor Shumlin

Governor Shumlin will not be able to come to the Abenaki Gathering in June. Shana Trombley stated our letter was sent out too late. Discussion was held. This issue with the Governor's involvement with the VCNAA will be explored this summer. More discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Boys Scouts

Andy passed out a new policy from the Boy Scouts regarding using Native American culture in their programs. Discussion was held. The commission approved the policy with suggesting changing sweat lodges to sweat stays and the VCNAA is available for any information needed by the Boy Scouts.

2. UVM letter – Perkins

Andy gave his opinion regarding the Peace and Justice letter regarding Perkins Hall referring to George Henry Perkins, not his son, Henry Perkins. John stated his unfavorable opinion about George Perkins. Discussion was held regarding the policy of George Perkins. No action was needed.

3. Koasek Traditional Band of the Abenaki nation Trade Name.

4. Colleen Chase, elder, is requesting that the VCNAA send a copy of their trade name registered in the state of Vermont to be attached to our application. Discussion was held regarding Criteria 2, 4, 9(A) and 9(B). Discussion was held regarding the timeline and the new incoming commission members. After much discussion, the commission decided it is not part of the criteria and that they can address this issue at the open meeting. Jeff will send a letter to Colleen to state our

decision. The scholar reports will be sent to Andy. Discussion was held regarding having a training session in September.

Jeff moved to go into executive session at 2:53.

The commission moved out of executive session at 4pm. Jeff will send the discussed letter.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Sept 17th, 2014, 1pm – 4pm at the Barre Archaeology Heritage Center. Potluck will begin at noon.

6. Announcements

No announcements.

7. Future Items

State-wide Abenaki artisan co-op – September

Establishing vocational dialogue with political leaders – September

Tour of the Archaeology Heritage Center - September

Create a new member contact list – September

Meeting with Governor Shumlin - September

Moved to adjourned at 4:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene McManis
Secretary

