

APPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2014



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

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

Guests: Dale Azaria, DHP; John Moody, Sharon; Donald Parker, Lunenburg; Doug Bent, Carol Irons, Colleen Chase, Woodsville, N.H.; Cheryl Prescott, Woodsville, N. H.; Chief Nate Pero, Fairlee; Chief Paul Bunnell, Weare, N.H.

The meeting was brought to order by Lucy at 1:05pm at 133 State Street, Basement Room 21, Montpelier.

1. Public Comment

Jeff passed out a copy of a letter from the Peace and Justice to the University of Vermont dated March 24th requesting to rename Perkins Hall. Charlene will scan the letter and email it to the commission.

2. Revisions/Changes

Dave wishes to have an executive session.

3. Approving March 26th 2014 minutes

Dave moved the March 26th minutes as corrected. Trudy seconded. All agreed. April 12th minutes tabled until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resubmission of Koasek Traditional Band Application

Andy received mixed responses from the scholars. Eloise Biel still wishes to be on the list. Kevin Dann is stated no to the list. John Moody is still interested. Peter Thomas stated no. Giovanna wish to still be on the list but not at this time. Lisa Neuman will stay on the list, Neil Reinhart and Angela Labrador still wishes to be on the list. Kathleen Bragden wishes to be on the list. Andy hasn't heard from Melody Brook, Colin Calloway, William Havilland, Paul Tamburro, Frederick Wiseman and Scott McLaughlin. John Moody, Angela Labrador, and Neil Reinhart were the last to read the application. Discussion was held regarding the scholars. On the table is the process of tabling the scholars until next month.

Nate questioned using the same scholars instead of using the new scholars. Nate stated he wishes to use the same scholars. Discussion was held. Dale stated that if the commission uses new scholars, then they might need the old information with the new. If the commission uses the same scholars, then only need the new information. Nate wishes to keep the same

scholars. Discussion was held regarding the scholars. Andy will email to the scholars if they wish to be on the scholar list and if they were available to view this application. Andy will also ask the existing scholars if they wish to review this application. Pat will ask Fred about reviewing this application.

2. Abenaki Heritage Gathering

Shirly stated the gathering is coming together. The Nulhegan Youth Drummers has been placed on the program. The publicity is being taken care of by the committee. Andy will invite Mrs. Jennifer Brennan. The free admission for Abenakis has been taken care of by grant. Discussion was held regarding the plaque. Jeff will assist Andy with the wording of the plaque for the Vermont Trophy and Engraving Company. Pat moved to ask the governor to set Saturday, June 28th as Abenaki Artist Day. Dave seconded. Discussion was held. Discussion was held regarding the governor coming to our next commission meeting. Jeff will speak with the governor's secretary regarding June's meeting. Charlene will send the flyer to Nate and they will print and take it to the rest areas. Motion moved unanimously.

3. Action Plan

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

Lucy is still working with Orleans Central on the final touches. Hopefully, this will be done by the end of the week. Discussion was held about racist profiling. Dave moved to empower the vice-chair to write a letter to the appropriate parties, pending discussion with the attorney, protesting the racial profiling in a northeast school. Pat seconded. Discussion was held. Jeff stated this should be used as a teaching moment. Jeff will ask Dale regarding this issue. Maybe this is a time to request a cultural sensitivity workshop in the northeast school districts. Motion moved with Lucy abstaining.

Lucy moved to break at 2:26pm.

Lucy resumed the meeting at 2:47pm.

B. Establishing Scholarships

Andy will email the new changes of the bills. The next step will be finding legislators to sponsor the bills. Discussion was held regarding the legislators. Walker will speak with the Progressive party. Dave will work with the Republicans and Democrats. Discussion was held regarding the amount of scholarships. This scholarship does need a self-sustaining nature.

C. Jim Petersen plaque

It was decided to have Jeff and Andy work on the plaque language and email it to the commission members.

D. Archeological Notification Process

Andy has not received the drafted notification. Giovanna and Don have given their notes on the draft. The commission will wait until the new Archeologist director arrives. John Moody wishes to see the draft of this notification when it returns to the commission.

E. Establishing a State-Wide Abenaki Artisan Co-op

Tabled for the next session.

Lucy moved to go into executive session for a personal matter at 3pm.
Lucy moved out of executive session at 3:19pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Andy Beaupre

Dave moved to have the commission send a letter of support for the Andy as the new Archeologist Director for the Department of the Historical Preservation. Lucy seconded. All agreed with Andy and Walker abstaining. Dave will compose the letter.

2. Native American Issue Questions for Candidates

Dave passed out the questionnaires. Discussion was held. The commission will review the questionnaire and bring the results to the next meeting.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 11, 2014, 1pm – 4pm at the State House Room 10 or at the Pavilion (with the governor). Charlene will find out if there is a conference phone at either site. She will check with Trudy on securing the state house or Pavilion if needed. Charlene moved to have our September meeting at the Conference Room at the History Center in Barre. Shirly seconded. All agreed.

4. Census Count on Natives in Schools

Dave asked if it would be possible to get a census on how many natives are in Vermont schools. Is it possible to do a state-wide audit regarding natives in schools? Discussion was held.

5. Announcements

Lucy will be leaving next week for the boy scouts in New Mexico. She will on conference call for the next meeting. It was decided there would be no July retreat this year.
John passed out copies of his

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

6. Future Items

Native American questionnaire - June

State-wide Abenaki artisan co-op – September

Establishing vocational dialogue with political leaders – September

Tour of the Archaeology Heritage Center - September

Respectfully,

Charlene McManis
Secretary