

APPROVED

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013



vcnaa.vermont.gov

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COMMISSION  
Carlton Bertrand Jr, Vice-Chair  
Charlene McManis, Secretary  
Andrew Beaupre  
Jeffrey Benay  
Lucy Cannon-Neel  
Dave Van Deusen  
Shirly Hook  
Trudy Ann Parker

Members Present: Carlton Bertrand, Jr., Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Jeffrey Benay; Dave Van Deusen; Shirly Hook; Trudy Ann Parker.

Members Absent: Andrew Beaupre; Lucy Cannon-Neel.

Guests: Fred Wiseman, Swanton; Auburn Waterson, Montpelier; Duncan Matthewson, Middlebury; Doug Bent, Braintree; Donald H. Parker, Lunenburg; Giovanna Peebles, DHP; John Moody, Sharon; John Kessler, ACCD.

The meeting was brought to order by Vice-Chair Joe Bertrand at 1:03pm at 133 State Street, Montpelier VT.

**1. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**2. Approve April 15, 2013 minutes**

Charlene moved to accept the minutes as amended. On top of page 3: *The Governor's Advisory Commission on Native American Affairs was charged with education, culture and economic development...*

On page 3, Item 3: *Regarding 852 (c) (7) (d), commission shall receive a per diem pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010, no more than six times a year, however the commission can meet as many times as they wish, instead of "The per diem is based on the amended law 853 – 6 times in year."* Jeff seconded. All agreed.

**3. Committee Updates**

**A. Policy**

Jeff met with Doug Racine and followed up with meetings with county folks up in Franklin County. Jeff reviewed the charge set for the Policy Committee. The committee looked into creating a pilot Abenaki foster parent program. Jeff asked if the commission was behind this venture. Discussion was held. It was decided to review this program in our July retreat on strategic planning. Shirly asked if Elnu and Koasek were on board with having foster parent training in their areas. More discussion was held.

**B. Cultural Resources (Education)**

It was decided that education will be on strategic planning. Trudy stated Burke Mountain and Lyndonville are looking for employees that can fill out job applications. Schooling should be addressed for all. Skills that native children will need for their future. Giovanna read the charges issued by the state. Discussion was held about assisting native children with education.

**C. Community Services**

Charlene has received emails from various native and non-natives that will be attending the event. Charlene will set up a sandwich board on State and Elm to let the farmer's market customers know about this event. The Circle of Courage Children's dance troupe is coming, along with some natives from Elnu. Fred Wiseman will have a group there. Charlene kept getting emails from the legislative going back and forth on if they will be in session. Last message was that they would be in session and that Aiken Avenue will be reserved for them. Discussion was held regarding what to do next year. Next year, have a proclamation written up by the commission and given to the Governor via Giovanna six weeks before the event. Restrooms are available at the visitor center, state house and the pavilion exhibit. Fred explained the first celebration of the Abenaki Heritage Week. 26 vendors. The commission thanked Giovanna for all her help.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Replacing Charlene as Commission Secretary**

Discussion was held regarding Charlene as a voluntary secretary for the commission. Giovanna emailed to John Kessler. Open meeting law does not require the commission to take detail notes. All that is required is who attended the meeting, the business items discussed, and any action taken or rejected (motions). Any commission member can take the minimal notes. A voluntary note-taker's minutes could not be considered as the formal minutes. Discussion was held. The item was tabled until John Kessler arrived. Also the discussion can be addressed with the Commissioner of Housing and Economic Development. John Kessler arrived for questions. Discussion was held. It was decided that the commission may make a motion in the September's meeting to authorize Charlene as a volunteer secretary for the commission's minutes.

**2. VT Archeology Month (September)**

Giovanna stated a rally would be a great kick off the September's event. Discussion was held regarding having an Abenaki forum or any other contemporary Native American program. The commission decided to create a "talking heads" program at the Barre Historical building, with a potluck, and finalize a date and time in June. The Cultural committee should be in charge of this. Also Charlene will place a blurb in the Mark Mitchell website for any events going on in the month of September to be added to the Archeology Month. The goal is to increase awareness about archeology is a way of learning history of Native Peoples: Know more. Care more."

### 3. **Domestic/Sexual Violence**

Auburn Windsong gave a detail overview of her program Vermont Network of Domestic Violence. She passed out packets which had all the available sexual/domestic violence programs around the state, along with other detailed native information. She has been charged to gather information on native women who have experience violence and has put together a written needs assessment. Discussion was held. Dave moved that the commission endorses this request of these questions and that the commission in turn ask the various tribal councils to cooperate in this endeavor and get this information back to Auburn. Charlene seconded. All agreed. Auburn will also go to the tribal council if needed to explain the programs. Charlene will send emails and snail mail of her packet to the various tribes for feedback. Auburn will send electronic version to Charlene. John has information regarding funding for support of the native people. Charlene suggested John send that information to Auburn.

Joe called for a five minute break at 2:46pm. Joe brought the meeting to order at 2:49pm.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 1. **Nathan Pero's questions regarding resubmitting application**

Nathan had four questions and a statement. He gave a brief history of what has transpired since the report. Nathan wanted to know what is his area. Dave explained that criteria one deals with 51% or more of the membership residing on land that wasn't overlapping with other tribes. Much discussion was held. Nathan asked for the areas that Koasek of the Koas is recognized. Discussion was held regarding John Moody assisting with the application. Fred asked Nathan is he had the information regarding the "very crooked knife." The answer is no. Fred will send the information to Nate. Discussion was held regarding having letters of support. Discussion was held regarding the procedure to resubmit the application and the statute time frame and limitations. This will be discussed in the July's meeting on strategic planning.

#### 2. **Fred Wiseman's Indigenous Center**

Fred gave a brief presentation on the proposal of the Indigenous Center. The project Haven started in 2006. Fred has two unpublished books, one named *Reclaiming Wabanaki Ceremony*. He gave a detail of this book. Fred then demonstrated his virtual museum in Image Amanda. It has 20 rooms, voice overlay, acute-weather, 27 books, etc. The goal is to finish the project and put it on-line. Fred showed the floor plans of the physical building. Fred will send the floor plan to Charlene to send to the commission members. The major partners in this project are the Echo Center, Champlain Valley Maritime Museum, and Missisquoi Wild Life Refuge. Fred will also be working with UVM on educational follow-up. Discussion was held regarding the resource data base. It will be on-line with the virtual museum.

#### 3. **Commission's vision/mission statement/by-laws/Commission board training/retreat**

Commissioner McKay and John Kessler will offer human resources for the retreat. The commission denied the offer. New commission members usually start their terms in

September. Four new positions will be filled. Discussion was held regarding having a board training in September. The next meeting will address this item.

**4. Luke Willard's resignation**

Jeff moved to accept Luke's resignation. Shirly seconded. Five agreed. One opposed. Joe Bertrand is now Chair.

**5. Brunswick Springs and Nulhegan Tribal Forest**

The Vermont Land Trust keeps a very detail book on all the land of Vermont in colored-coded by state land, national forest, various types of easements. Dave propose that the commission to write an official letter requesting that lands that are conserved and are Abenaki lands to be color-coded separately and listed as Abenaki lands. This would get Abenaki back on the map. Dave will write up the letter and send it to the secretary. The secretary will send to Joe for signature with a addressed envelope to the Land Trust. Giovanna will give Charlene the address of the CO of the Land Trust and mapping John Osborn. John Moody offered information regarding Abenaki relationship lands. Discussion was held regarding Brunswick Springs. Dave suggested the commission to organize a Green-up Day in May for clean up at Brunswick Springs. Discussion was held regarding developing the area.

**6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on June 12, 2013 at 1pm to 4pm at 133 State Building, Basement Room 21. The secretary will post all meetings for the coming year.

**7. Announcements**

Charlene gave Joe information regarding the Prometheus Radio Project for Native tribes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene McManis  
Secretary