

UNAPPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes (Amended)
Monday, July 7th, 2014
Teleconference



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

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

Present: Charlene McManis, Secretary; Trudy Thomas, DHP.

On Phone: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Jeff Benay, Vice-Chair; Andy Beaupre; Walker Brook; Shirly Hook; Chief Paul Bunnell, Weare, NH; Peggy Fullerton, Koasek Band of the Koas.

Absent: Pat Johnson, Trudy Ann Parker

The meeting was brought to order by Charlene McManis at 12:05pm.
Discussion was held regarding the new open meeting law effective July 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Scholar Panel

Andy reiterated how there should be three on the scholar panel for the Koasek Traditional Band application which were Eloise Biel, John Moody and Kathleen Bragden. However, a letter dated July 3rd, was read into the minutes:

“...In the aftermath of a wonderful and successful Abenaki Heritage Weekend, it is difficult but necessary for me to write with apologies that I am unable to serve on the scholar panel to review for petition for tribal recognition at this time. Unfortunately, my work schedule is still seven days a week for the next several months and I know that I would not be able to give the application review the attention it needs nor would I be confident that I could attend the hearing to testify. With apologies and best wishes...”

Jeff requested Andy to run off the names on the scholar list. Currently the remaining scholars are Angela Labador, Neil Reinhart and Lisa Newman.

Andy cited Lisa Newman’s credentials for the commission. She had sent a letter of resignation dated November 16th, 2012 which was read into the minutes:

“...I regret to inform you that I must respectfully resign my volunteer role in the scholar panel that reviews applications for tribal recognition in Vermont and

advise the commission on the decisions. It was my understanding that when I accepted the commission's invitation to help with tribal recognition cases that I would have sufficient time to prepare a report on the commission. That my expertise in anthropology likely to be complimented on the scholar's panel by a professional genealogist and/or a professional historian and that my specific comments by members of scholar's panel would be kept confidential and publicly reported only in likely aggregate form. I was unaware until this past week that my understandings were incorrect. Without adequate time balance scholarly expertise and reasonable measures to protect confidentiality, the integrity to process suffers and maybe called into question by others. I understand it is of course to report information is a difficult job that you must do as a commission do to the process of Native American tribes, both recognize and unrecognized. Vermont is a concern that we all share. It is the reason that I want to step aside..."

Discussion was held regarding Lisa's letter. There were three points noted 1: insufficient time 2) her expertise in anthropology would be complimented with the panel and 3) that her comments would be kept confidential. Andy gave Neil Reinhart's and Angela Labrador's credentials. Discussion was held regarding Lisa Newman and her three points. It was decided not to ask Lisa. Discussion was held regarding Angela Labrador and Neil Reinhart. Andy recommends that the commission contact Angela Labrador for the third scholar. Shirly agreed. Discussion was held. Neil Reinhart is not an academic. Jeff asked Paul what was his decision. He stated he needed to go back to the tribe for a decision. Jeff requested that Paul gives an answer within 24 hours. Discussion was held regarding the policy of selecting scholars. The policy states that the commission recommends the scholar panel and that the tribe would either agree or disagree. If the tribe does not agree with the scholar panel, then the decision is up to the Preservation Officer. Discussion was held regarding the scholar list. Andy does the upkeep of the scholar list. Jeff moved to vote.

Jeff moved to recommend Angela Labrador as the third scholar; however, if the tribe does not agree with the recommendation, then the commission will recommend Neil Reinhart, with the understanding that Paul will contact Andy within 24 hours for the decision. Lucy seconded. Discussion was held. If the tribe does not accept either candidate, the decision of scholar will go to SHPO. The vote was as follows:
Shirly – aye, Lucy – aye, Jeff – Aye, Andy – Aye, Walker – aye, Charlene – Aye.
Andy will keep tabs on the scholars. Paul will contact Andy with the answer.
Meeting adjourned at 12:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene McManis
Secretary

