

**VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS**



**VCNAA Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2012**



vcnaa.vermont.gov

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COMMISSION
Luke Willard, Chairman
Melody Walker Brook, Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupre
Shirly Hook
Betty Johnson
Takara Matthews
Dave Van Deusen

Members Present: Luke Willard, President; Melody Walker Brook, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andrew Beaupre; Shirly Hook; Dave Van Deusen.

Absent: Betty Johnson; Takara Matthews; Fred W. Wiseman.

Guests: Sarah Bergh, VT Heritage Center; Giovanna Peebles, Div. for Historic Preservation; Phelan Fretz, ECHO Lake Aquarium & Science Center; Nate Pero, Koasek; John Moody, Carol Irons, Albany.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Luke Willard at 1:10pm at the Vermont History Center in Barre. The meeting started with a moment of silence for Macadam Mason.

1. Approve minutes of April 17, 2012.

Luke moved to table the April 17th minutes. Andrew 2nd. All agreed.

2. Committee Reports.

A. Cultural Resources

Melody placed all the Abenaki events on the board website and Facebook Andrew will be meeting with Judy Neal in two weeks to pursue Title VII.

Giovanna informed the commission that she is in charge of Vermont website and has repaired the website in order to add new events/news.

B. Community Services

Charlene informed the commission that business workshops are in the making for Missisquoi and Nulhegan areas. Just need to work out the details with both organizations. Also, WGDR is willing to assist any tribe to set up a local radio station through Native Public Media and Prometheus Radio Project. Contact Deb Reger at WGDR.

Also spoke about possibility of having a workshop or an exhibit at the VASS (Vermont Association of Social Services) conference in December.

Charlene will be heading up a "Get out the Native Vote" campaign for this year's election. It is a national native event that promotes native registration and voting in the elections. She will contact various native tribes and organizations for voter registration and surveys. Let everyone know our votes count. Dave gave a contact: Vermont Workers: James Haslam-272-0882. They have people forums and are interested in native issues. Andrew said that UVM has a huge student registrar. He suggested the Student Government Union as a contact.

C. Government Policy

Since the legislation session has closed down, the committee has eased up. They are still working on the Koasek Traditional Band of the Sovereign Abenaki Nation. (See OLD BUSINESS - Item 4)

OLD BUSINESS

1. RACE exhibit at ECHO Center

Phelam Fretz, executive director of ECHO, shared the concept on the upcoming exhibit this October 6th through January 15, 2013. Ned Castle, photographer who did the Abenaki portraits, is planning to create an 8 to 15 minutes video of Vermont race stories. The ECHO center now has a theatre which seats about 175.

Phelam passed out a handout packet explaining the upcoming exhibit which hails from Minnesota. Phelam explain the reasons and highlights of the exhibit. There will be an all day festival on October 6th, December 1st, and January 5th from 10am – 5pm. CQ Associates (Vermont-based training collective) is involved with ECHO. A Youth conferences on October 20th and January 21st will be hosted for high school students. Discussion was held regarding telling of Eugenics, value system, and wind power. Phelam stated the ECHO's filter is about environment. Melody asked is they had a set agenda on events. ECHO is still flexible. Melody also volunteered to put any information about the event on the UVM board. Phelam passed out business cards and will keep Luke informed about the exhibit. Andrew asked how the students will be appointed. ECHO will be going through the government initiatives program.

2. Expanding list of scholars panel

Melody passed over the scholar panel list to Andrew. Andrew told the commission that Giovanna Vitali wishes to be removed from the list due to a career transfer to Cambridge. Melody stated who is currently on the list: Bill Haviland, Fred Wiseman, John Moody, Eloise Beil, and Lisa Neuman. Others still need to be contacted. Andrew will handle that. Giovanna gave more names for possibilities: Neal Rinehart, UM Amherst, Martin Wolf, and Jean Forrest. Discussion was held. Dave asked John Moody about his position with the legislation could this be an issue with the government. Discussion was held.

Melody read the biography of Lisa Neuman. Andrew moved to accept Lisa's application for scholar panel. Shirly seconded. All agreed.

3. Update regarding application submitted by Nathan Pero

Luke asked Nathan and the commission is he should still recue himself from this application. After much discussion, Luke will remain. Dave will chair item 3. Dave, Andrew and Charlene are on the commission panel for this application. Andrew has contacted Scott Dillon for redaction of the application. Date has yet to be decided. The public forum cannot be schedule until the redaction is completed. Giovanna will be in charge of the public notice in Mark's site and website. Discussion was held. Nathan asked for the definition of redaction of documents. Discussion was held. Giovanna will send the 40 pages of Act 107 Title One to the commission members. The scholar panel is John Moody and Lisa Neuman. Still need one

more scholar on this panel. Andrew is contact the names mentioned earlier. The new scholars need to be voted in by the commission. Discussion was held.

Dave discussed his concerns with Nathan regarding issues with the application. Much discussion was held. Luke promised Nathan that he will fight for the revised application in the state house. Giovanna informed the commission and Nathan that once a petition is removed, that the application cannot be resubmitted for 2 years. Discussion was held.

Giovanna clarified Chief Pero not to withdraw the application, for Andrew to work with Nathan and the community to strengthen the application, either revise or amend. Andrew questioned whether he can revise or amend. It is acceptable. Dave would like clarification regarding the two tribes sharing a history in the application. Discussion held regarding the name of the tribe. Deadline for the application to be reviewed is one year after additional supporting documentation (letters from tribes). Application submitted to the commission in December 2011. Giovanna will go see Julie regarding the Koasek Traditional Band. Nathan will wait for reply regarding the name.

Dave moved for a recess at 3:38pm. Melody seconded. All agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Upcoming applications process for new VCNAA commissioners

Giovanna read from 851.8.b. Giovanna will be sending an email to the four tribes for possible applications and recommendations of VCNAA. The application process will be on the VCNAA website. Four members will be leaving the commission: Takara Matthews, Fred Wiseman, Melody Walker-Brook, and Betty Johnson. We will using the standard government application but add tribal affiliation request. End of July is the deadline.

2. Taser attack on a Micmac Man

Dave informed the commission members about an incident where a Micmac man was taser, and subsequently died from the attack. Dave moved someone from the commission write a statement regarding this event to the Vermont Commission of Human Rights, the tribes and Police. Andrew seconded. Andrew amended the motion to have Luke and Dave write a statement. Charlene seconded. All agreed.

3. Vermont Archeology Month

Giovanna introduced Doctor Sarah Bergh as an intern for the Archeology and for the Vermont Archeology Month. Community Services will be designated to create a native event. Melody offered to volunteer to help with this event. Community Services will be looking for sponsors.

Also Allison from Farmers Night at the State House is asking for Natives to speak.

Community Services will be involved getting this together.

Andrew is doing a lecture for Archeology Month.

4. Vermont Archeology Heritage Center

The Vermont Archeology Heritage has moved into the Vermont History Center in Barre, property of Vermont Historical Society. Giovanna invited the commission to assist to put together an exhibit into the rooms' shelf space. Discussion was held. The commission will tour the new building after adjournment.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will be schedule after new commission members are appointed by the Governor.

6. Thank you to Melody for her service.

Dave moved to thank Melody for service with the commission and the Native American community of Vermont and simply state the commission's appreciation for all of her work. Andrew seconded. All agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene McManis
Secretary