

APPROVED

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



[vcnaa.vermont.gov](http://vcnaa.vermont.gov)

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**COMMISSION**

Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair  
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair  
Charlene McManis, Secretary  
Andrew Beaupré  
Walker Brook  
Shirly Hook  
Mark Mitchell  
Trudy Ann Parker



**VCNAA Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 8th, 2015**

**Members Present:** Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andrew Beaupré, Mark Mitchell, Walker Brook, Shirly Hook, and Trudy Ann Parker.

**Guests:** Carol Irons, John Moody, Sharon; Rich Holschuh, Brattleboro; Donald Parker, Doug Bent, Duncan Matthewson, Rebecca Bailey, Peggy Fullerton, Jess Robinson, VT DHP; Jennifer Lavoie, VT DHP.

The meeting was brought to order by Chair Lucy Cannon-Neel at 1:06 pm at 133 State Street, Room 021.

**1. Public Comment**

John Moody conveyed his desire to meet with the Commission for an hour to discuss; archeological procedures, criteria in the statute for a tribe to become State recognized and the wind farm project in southern Vermont.

Rebecca Bailey asked if there would be an additional public comment period later in the meeting. Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair, advised there would not.

Doug Bent spoke about a wonderful performance given in Bradford by the Voices of the Koas with approximately 100 children.

**2. Revisions / Changes**

The Voices of the Koas, 4 on the agenda, will perform at the May meeting.

**3. Approve March 11, 2015 minutes**

Shirly Hook asked if Jeff Benay's statement in its entirety be added to the March minutes. John Moody advised that his name was incorrectly spelled as Jon in the March minutes. John also advised that March guest Deborah Roger, was actually Deborah Reger. Andrew Beaupré suggested that the approval of the March minutes be tabled until the revisions are made. Lucy Cannon-Neel, advised they would table approval until May.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Final Report on the Koasek Traditional Band Application**

Andrew Beaupré stated a minor revision was made in the letter from the Commission and that copies were mailed to Chief Paul Bunnell, Chief Nate Pero and the heads of the two House and Senate committees.

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## **2. Cultural Environmental Conference**

Charlene McManis advised she had received an email from Charlie Megeso regarding the Cultural Environmental Conference in 2016. She stated his interest is how much collaboration and commitment he can expect from the Commission. Walker Brook requested if Charlie could propose what his expectations from the Commission would be, they could consider his request and respond appropriately. The Commission would like Charlie to come to the May meeting with his proposal. Rebecca Bailey suggested that Charlie contact each tribe to gauge interest and collaborate on the conference from the ground up.

## **3. Action Plan**

### **a. Abenaki Heritage Gathering**

Shirly Hook and Charlene McManis provided the Commission with a status update on the progress of planning the Gathering. Charlene is helping to organize a potluck and Saturday morning coffee and donuts. Shirly advised there will be a food vendor. Rebecca Bailey offered to create the social media marketing and the public service announcements. The Commission appreciated the offer and happily agreed.

### **b. Notification of Archaeological Process**

Andrew Beaupré provided the Commission members with the latest version of the archaeological process draft. He changed some of the language in the document, added a section regarding private landowners, excavations on private land and the Online Research Center. There was discussion to verify whom from each tribe would be listed as the contact person. Jeffrey Benay questioned if the Commission could legally recommend a policy and what that specifically would entail. Andy was asked to email Dale Azaria, DHCD legal counsel, to verify. Andy also agreed to remain on, as an agent of the Commission after his term expires in August, to see the archaeological process through to completion. John Moody reiterated his desire to discuss this topic in great detail with the Commission, and agreed to bring a previous policy and other supporting documents to the next meeting.

### **c. Abenaki Artifacts / Anti-Looting Laws**

Topic was tabled until next month.

### **d. Introducing Native Kids to College**

Charlene McManis advised she mailed out copies of the letter that Walker Brook drafted. Walker is eagerly awaiting feedback from the tribes. Walker stated that currently the Elnu Tribe does not have a need for this program, as the children of appropriate age are already engaged in College planning or are very young.

### **e. Youth Representation at VCNAA**

Walker Brook and Lucy Cannon-Neel advised they do not have appropriately aged youth to participate from Elnu and Nulhegan Tribes. Jeffrey Benay spoke about the UVM Summer Happening program. Trudy Ann Parker suggested that the Abenaki Heritage Gathering would be a great opportunity to spread awareness. Discussion ensued about raising awareness of the program through printed materials and social media.

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**f. Abenaki Cultural Heritage Week**

Mark Mitchell provided the Commission members with a final copy of the proposed 2016 Cultural Heritage week performance. Additionally, he documented means for potential grant funding if needed. He is still awaiting feedback from the tribes to gauge interest, and establish what type of routines they would be interested in performing. The Commission members were pleased with his final copy and would inform the tribes to generate feedback.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2015 at 133 State St, Rm 21, Montpelier, VT 05620.

**2. Announcements**

Charlene McManis informed the Commission of three upcoming lectures that Fred Wiseman will be presenting at various locations.

Jeff Benay advised that he met with the Franklin County Superintendent regarding the proposed Columbus Day holiday for students. The conclusion of the meeting resulted that Franklin County would not celebrate Columbus Day.

Jess Robinson informed the Commission members that the Division for Historic Preservation is currently accepting applications for the vacant Commission seats, deadline for submission will be May 15, 2015.

Rich Holschuh notified the Commission about an upcoming commemoration of the Turner Falls massacre site on May 15, 2015. He also spoke about TransCanada going through a re-licensing for three hydro dams in Vernon, Wilder, and Bellows Falls. Currently, the door is open for comment regarding the re-licensing, but once the license is granted, the door will be closed for thirty-five years.

**3. Adjourn**

Lucy Cannon-Neel made a motion to adjourn and Shirly Hook seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Lavoie