

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



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

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**COMMISSION**

Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair  
Melody Brook, Vice-Chair  
Carol Irons  
Cheryl O'Neil  
Paul Fassler  
Joelen Mulvaney  
Rich Holschuh  
Carol McGranaghan  
Eugene Rich



VCNAA January 11, 2017  
Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Carol Irons, Paul Fassler, Cheryl O'Neill, Carol McGranaghan, Joelen Mulvaney, Rich Holschuh.

**Members Absent:** Melody Brook, Vice-Chair; Eugene Rich

**Guests:** Sheila Rock, National Farm Worker Jobs Program; John Moody, Sharon; Dale Azaria, VDHP; Jenni Lavoie, VDHP. Ms. Lavoie records the minutes at the request of the commission.

The meeting was brought to order by Lucy Cannon-Neel at 1:01 pm at 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, in the Montpelier conference room.

**1. Changes to the Agenda**

Joelen Mulvaney stated she would discuss the draft proclamation in support of the Standing Rock Sioux after action plan item b.

**2. Public Comment**

Sheila Rock, from the National Farm Worker Jobs Program, provided commissioners with an overview of the federally funded program that assists in training workers for employment in the various jobs related to agriculture. She provided informational materials about the program for distribution.

**3. Approve November 9, 2016 Minutes**

Consensus was reached to approve the November 9, 2016, meeting minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Action Plan**

**a. Developing Teaching Materials**

Paul Fassler and Carol Irons are developing a "train the trainer" program on the various native lessons they have been documenting. They are currently looking to gather a group of Abenaki adults to learn the various subject matters, take the lessons back to their communities, and teach those in their tribes.

**b. Dept. of Health – Native Style Treatment & Recovery Program in Swanton for Alcohol & Opiate Addiction.**

Joelen Mulvaney reported the creation of a treatment and recovery facility remains a long-term goal; however, the groups focus has shifted to youth leadership development and community coalition development. The committee is pursuing grants to hire a staff person for this purpose. A new action plan name will be forthcoming.

Commission members reviewed and discussed Ms. Mulvaney's draft proclamation of support for the Standing Rock Sioux. Discussion focused on draft edits and a potential press release of the proclamation.

**c. Improve Communication with Tribes**

Rich Holschuh is maintaining the commission's Facebook page. He indicated there has been good feedback with recent posts.

**d. Native Traditions Conference**

Lucy Cannon-Neel reported she is closing the grant for the conference. The feedback from the native community indicates another weekend long conference this year is preferred. Lucy extended a special thank you to Deb Reger for her volunteered media work.

**e. CT River Hydro Re-Licensing**

Rich Holschuh reported that currently interested parties are being asked to respond to the TransCanada consultant Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) study, which was found to be lacking. With a new TCP report creation on the horizon, a deadline of January 15, 2017 was set for comments.

John Moody notified commissioners that the Abenaki Nation Coalition is involved in the hydro re-licensing process and questioned the level of information on the topic that commissioners were interested in receiving.

**f. Indigenous People's Day**

Rich Holschuh submitted a proposal to the Town of Brattleboro requesting the creation of Indigenous People's Day be considered on Town Meeting Day. Discussion focused on potential legislative partners to create and introduce legislation for the designation of this day.

**g. Legislation for Native Scholarships to be Funded by Native License Plates**

Topic tabled until next month.

**h. Statewide Title VII**

Topic tabled until next month.

**i. Native Student Recognition**

Carol McGranaghan reported the concept for Native Student Recognition was intended for native youth in grades 9 through 12. They students are to submit essays, with one native youth selected for recognition. Commissioners discussed potential prizes and means of spreading the information about the essay contest.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Announcements**

Paul Fassler lead a discussion about drafting invitations to the new administration to attend a future commission meeting. Invitations would be for the governor, secretary of the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, and commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development. Consensus was reached to have Mr. Fassler draft the invitation.

**Adjourn 3:01 p.m.**