

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE
AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

Lucy Cannon-Neel
beehive1_2000@yahoo.com

COMMISSION

Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair
Walker Brook
Trudy Ann Parker
Carol Irons
Cheryl O'Neil
Paul Fassler
Joelen Mulvaney
Rich Holschuh



VCNAA June 8, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Carol Irons, Paul Fassler, Munro (Walker) Brook, Rich Holschuh.

Members Absent: Cheryl O'Neill, Joelen Mulvaney and Trudy Ann Parker

Guests: Jess Robinson, VDHP; Jenni Lavoie; VDHP.

The meeting was brought to order by Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair at 1:06 pm at 133 State Street, Room 410.

1. Changes to the Agenda

Announcements was added under new business, #6.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Approve March April 13, 2016 Minutes.

Consensus was reached to approve the May 11, 2016 minutes with no changes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Action Plan

a. Developing Teaching Materials

Carol Irons advised the committee is working on outreach to gather teachers for the curriculum and a grant writer has been selected.

Jeff Benay held a discussion about potential partnership with several groups to acquire a summer camp in New Hampshire.

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

There was no update for this topic.

c. Statewide Title VII

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised she had been in communication with John Castle, the superintendent of the North Country Supervisory Union. They will be working together to consult with superintendents from other towns and counties.

Lucy also advised the commission that she would like to form a group who would be willing to assist with requests from the Chaplain at the VA. The Chaplain has reached out to Lucy in the past to assist native folks in the process of crossing over.

d. Improve Communications with Tribes

Rich Holschuh advised that the Commission Facebook page recently received over 100 likes.

e. Native Traditions Conference

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised that conference planning is coming along well. Agenda items and presenters are still coming together and she's received a very generous food donation.

f. Bullying and Harassment in Vermont Schools Study

There was no update for this topic.

Lucy Cannon-Neel moved to break from 2:00pm – 2:15pm

2. CT River Hydro Re-Licensing

Rich Holschuh has advised that the Elnu Tribe has become involved in the process, with Rich as their liaison. Also, Rich advised that at the last meeting the decision was made to have the consultant on the project submit a new Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) study with input from the Federal and State recognized tribes. Jess Robinson explained to commissioners the role of the Division in this process.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Archaeology Guidelines

A handout of the draft guidelines was distributed to all commissioners. Jess Robinson spoke about the history of the guidelines since he became State Archaeologist. Commissioners will review the draft guidelines over the summer break, with hopes to discuss the topic again in September when the commission reconvenes.

2. Discussion about Archaeology Survey

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised that she had received a letter and spoken with the archaeologist involved in the Castleton survey project. She also advised she had been invited to visit the site during the project, which she accepted. Carol Irons will join her in visiting the site. Walker Brook advised that the Elnu tribal chief is actively involved in the project as well.

3. Renaming of Gorge at Brockways Mills

Rich Holschuh discussed the history of the idea, that a gentleman in the hamlet of Brockways Mills would like to name the previously unnamed falls at the local gorge. After some outreach and various ideas, Roger Longtoe Sheehan proposed the Abenaki name,

Sokiki Falls. After discussion that the town and Elnu tribe are in support of the idea; the commission reached consensus that since the Elnu are involved, commission involvement appears not to be needed at this time.

4. Discussion about Meeting with UVM President

Jeff Benay advised that this meeting did not take place in time to report on at this meeting. After the meeting, Jeff will follow up with Lucy to debrief on the meeting.

5. 2016 / 2017 Commission Meeting Schedule

Jenni Lavoie provided a handout to commissioners with the 2016 / 2017 meeting schedule. She advised that all future meetings will be held at the National Life building in Montpelier.

6. Announcements

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised that she had been contacted by the Noyes Museum in Morristown regarding a dugout canoe that they would like native input on.

Additionally, Lucy thanked Jeff Benay and Trudy Ann Parker (in absentia) for their dedication and hard work over the past four years that they have served on the commission.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Jenni Lavoie