

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE
AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



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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 November 9, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Melody Brook, Vice-Chair; Carol Irons, Paul Fassler, Cheryl O'Neill, Carol McGranaghan, Joelen Mulvaney, Rich Holschuh and Eugene Rich.

Members Absent: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair

Guests: Duncan Matthewson, CCV; Larissa Dillon, CCV; Dale Azaria, VDHP; Jenni Lavoie, VDHP. Ms. Lavoie records the minutes at the request of the commission.

The meeting was brought to order by Melody Brook at 1:02 pm at 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, in the Montpelier conference room.

1. Changes to the Agenda

Joelen Mulvaney stated there were two items she would like to discuss: Standing Rock and securing mountain tops in Vermont. The discussions will occur under announcements.

2. Public Comment

Duncan Matthewson stated that he and his assistant are in the process of writing a book on First Peoples of Vermont.

3. Approve October 12, 2016 Minutes

Consensus was reached to approve the October 12, 2016, meeting minutes.

4. Information from General Counsel for Commission Members

Dale Azaria reviewed the Vermont State Statute, which created the commission and outlined its responsibilities. Dale also reviewed the open meeting law and rules pertaining to executive session.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Action Plan

a. Developing Teaching Materials

Carol Irons and Paul Fassler reported that they continue to coordinate with interested teachers and are drafting a grant application to seek assistance with funding for this project.

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

Joelen Mulvaney stated that the committee is poised to resubmit a federal grant application in March, after making some adjustments. The committee is aware of a State facility being proposed for the Swanton area, but the type of facility being proposed is still unknown.

c. Improve Communication with Tribes

Rich Holschuh advised that the Facebook page is still maintaining a presence and continues to gain followers.

d. Native Traditions Conference

Melody Brook along with several other commissioners advised that the conference was very well received and they have heard positive feedback. The tribal Chiefs would like to have another conference next year. Discussion focused on ideas to incorporate more opportunities for children at future events.

e. CT River Hydro Re-Licensing

Rich Holschuh reported that stakeholders and TransCanada held their first meeting with the consultant selected to create the Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) guidance. Mr. Holschuh advised that a TCP for hydro projects has never been documented in the Northeast.

f. Indigenous People's Day

Rich Holschuh announced the plan to request that the second Monday of October declared as Indigenous People's Day. The request will be forwarded to the Governor's office and legislature.

g. Legislature for Native Scholarships to be Funded by Native License Plates

Topic tabled until the next meeting.

h. Statewide Title VII

Topic tabled until the next meeting.

i. Native Student Recognition

This goal was changed from "native student of the month" to "native student recognition." Melody Brook and Carol McGranaghan stated the tribal Chiefs were in support of this idea. Discussion focused on ideas for how the student would be selected, potential funding sources, and if prizes would be given.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Announcements

Joelen Mulvaney inquired about sending a letter of support to the Standing Rock Sioux. Ms. Mulvaney will draft a letter for review at the next commission meeting.

Ms. Mulvaney also discussed the possibility of putting a moratorium on ridgelines and mountain tops through potential legislature as cultural properties.

Rich Holschuh proposed trying to further the commission's relationship with their NH counterparts by attending one of the meetings in New Hampshire, or suggesting a joint meeting.

Adjourn 2:43 p.m.