



VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS

VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2015



Members Present: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair (by phone); Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Andrew Beaupré, Walker Brook (by phone), Shirley Hook, and Trudy Ann Parker.

Members Absent: Mark Mitchell

Guests: Carol Irons, John Moody, Sharon; Donald Parker, Lunenburg, Doug Bent, Braintree; Peter Kenney, Nulhegan Tribe; Deborah Reger, Community Radio; Dale Azaria, VT DHCD; Jess Robinson, VT DHP; Jennifer Lavoie, VT VDHP.

The meeting was brought to order by Vice-Chair Jeffrey Benay at 1:10 pm at 133 State Street, Room 021.

vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

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COMMISSION

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

1. Voices of the Koas

The Voices of the Koas will perform at the June meeting.

2. Public Comment

John Moody reiterated he would like the Commission to consider the revision of criteria 1 of the application process for a tribe to become state recognized. He also provided the Commission members with documents of prior policy regarding site burial protection and sacred places. Additionally, he spoke about the wind farm project in the Southern Green Mountains. He along with several others, are composing letters to dissuade the project from resuming.

Dale Azaria, VT DHCD, commented on the status of the application process for the open and upcoming vacancies on the Commission. The deadline for the two current vacancies is May 15, 2015. She also reported that there are no age restrictions for applicants, youth can apply to become Commission members. In light of this new information, the Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) will be accepting applications for the upcoming Commission vacancies. The deadline for these applications will be July 1, 2015. Dale also informed the Commission, members cannot be on the interview panel, but can provide the Division with questions to ask at the interviews.

3. Revisions / Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes or revisions to the agenda.

UNAPPROVED

4. Approve March 11, 2015 minutes

Andrew Beaupré made a motion to accept the March 11, 2015 minutes. Shirley Hook seconded and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Andrew Beaupré, Jeffrey Benay, Lucy Cannon-Neel, Shirley Hook, Trudy Ann Parker, and Walker Brook. Motion carried.

5. Approve April 8, 2015 minutes

Andrew Beaupré made a motion to accept the April 8, 2015 minutes. Shirley Hook seconded and a roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Andrew Beaupré, Jeffrey Benay, Lucy Cannon-Neel, Shirley Hook, Trudy Ann Parker, and Walker Brook. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Cultural Environmental Conference (Charlie Megeso)

Topic was tabled until next month.

2. Action Plan

a. Abenaki Heritage Gathering

Shirly Hook reported that planning was continuing to go well for the gathering, with the exception of losing the food vendor. Walker Brook, Andrew Beaupré and John Moody provided Shirly with alternative food vendor ideas. Shirly plans on contacting Charlene McManis to check the status of advertising and marketing for the event.

b. Archaeological Process

Andrew Beaupré advised there are no new updates regarding the archaeological process since his last report. He will set a meeting with Jess Robinson to discuss the policy further.

c. Abenaki Artifacts Guidelines / d. Anti-looting on Abenaki Artifacts

Andrew Beaupré mentioned at a prior Commission meeting, Dale Azaria had agreed to look into NH law. Dale recollected she had done some research a few months back and had spoken with the NH State Archaeologist. The NH State Archaeologist advised about the importance of building alliances with different war groups and history preservationists to help in the preservation and protection of artifacts. Additionally, she advised as part of VT law, there are criminal penalties for anyone trafficking artifacts.

e. Native Youth College Program

Walker Brook advised that he has not received any feedback or interest from the tribes. The Commission members were concerned, that the information about the scholarships and the UVM Summer Happening program may not be reaching enough people. Commission members discussed different ways and means of reaching more native people.

f. VCNA Youth Representation

This topic was discussed during agenda item 2 public comment.

g. Abenaki Cultural Heritage Week

Topic was tabled until next month.

UNAPPROVED

Jeffrey moved to break at 2:25 pm. The meeting reconvened at 2:45 pm. Lucy Cannon-Neel was not on the phone for the remainder of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Next Meetings

Commission members discussed how many meetings there had typically been in past years, but ultimately tabled the topic until next month, to include absent members.

2. VCNAA Website

Dale Azaria informed the Commission that because the VCNAA website is a government website, the content that can be published is limited. She advised that if the Commission wants to establish its own website, a link can be placed on the current website to the new one.

3. Announcements

Deborah Reger, Community Radio, offered to broadcast VCNAA updates and public service announcements. Deb also mentioned a tribal map that is being created, she would like to see Abenaki information added to that map.

John Moody advised that the NH Commission on Native American Affairs is meeting in Hanover on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. He also advised of an Abenaki language gathering over the Memorial Day weekend.

Adjourn

Andrew Beaupré made a motion to adjourn and Shirley Hook seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Lavoie