

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



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**COMMISSION**

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



**VCNAA October 12, 2016  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Carol Irons, Paul Fassler, Cheryl O'Neill, Melody Brook, Carol McGranaghan and Eugene Rich.

**Members Absent:** Joelen Mulvaney, Rich Holschuh

**Guests:** Madeline Motta; Jess Robinson, 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 1:21 pm at 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, in the Montpelier conference room.

**1. Changes to the Agenda**

Action plan items b. Dept. of Health – Native Style Treatment & Recovery Program in Swanton for Alcohol & Opiate Addiction and e. CT River Hydro Re-Licensing under old business was tabled until next month.

**2. Welcome New Members & Introduction**

New commission members Melody Brook, Carol McGranaghan and Eugene Rich were introduced.

**3. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Approve September 14, 2016 Minutes**

Consensus was reached to approve the September 14, 2016, meeting minutes with one clarification noted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Action Plan**

**a. Developing Teaching Materials**

Carol Irons stated the committee is pinning down logistical details and have four teachers who have expressed interest in assisting with the lessons, which include a language introduction, cultural history overview, woods lore, plant lore, and spiritual practices. Additionally, Ms. Irons reported that a letter of intent is being drafted to accompany a future grant to assist with the funding for this program.

**b. Improve Communications with Tribes**

Lucy Cannon-Neel stated she continues to see an increase in communications with the tribes and is appreciative to everyone who has helped to make this goal become a reality.

**c. Native Traditions Conference**

Lucy Cannon-Neel thanked Melody Brook for her invaluable assistance in planning the conference. Additionally, Ms. Cannon-Neel stated she has received positive feedback concerning the upcoming conference, with interest from possible attendees from the other New England states. Print, television, and Facebook advertising have been completed and an agenda for the conference will be forthcoming.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Election of Officers**

Paul Fassler nominated Lucy Cannon-Neel for Chair and Melody Brook for Vice-Chair. With unanimous consensus, the two were confirmed.

**2. Goal Setting**

Current action plan items were broadly discussed to bring new commission members up to speed. Ideas from the last meeting were reviewed, with new goals and an action plan outlined for the 2016/2017 commission season.

- a. **Developing Teaching Materials** – Carol Irons & Paul Fassler
- b. **Dept. of Health – Native Style Treatment & Recovery Program in Swanton for Alcohol & Opiate Addiction.** – Joelen Mulvaney
- c. **Improve Communications with Tribes** – Lucy Cannon-Neel & Rich Holschuh
- d. **Native Traditions Conference** – Lucy Cannon-Neel & Melody Brook
- e. **CT River Hydro Re-Licensing** – Rich Holschuh
- f. **Indigenous People’s Day** – Rich Holschuh
- g. **Legislature for Native Scholarships to be Funded with Native License Plates** – Lucy Cannon-Neel & Eugene Rich
- h. **Statewide Title VII** – Lucy Cannon-Neel
- i. **Native Student of the Month** – Melody Brook & Carol McGranaghan

**3. Action Planning**

This topic was discussed with actions assigned during the goal setting portion of the meeting.

**4. State Archaeologist Update**

Jess Robinson provided commission members with a summary of events and attendance from Archaeology Month this year. He indicated that he would like to partner more with the native community for additional events and programming for 2017 Archaeology Month.

Lucy Cannon-Neel moved to break from 2:15pm – 2:25pm

## **5. Announcements**

Lucy Cannon-Neel expressed extreme thanks to Governor Shumlin for proclaiming October 10, 2016, as Indigenous People's Day and to Rich Holschuh for initiating the request.

Commission members discussed creating a list of tribal contacts by region for those wishing to contact native community members for educational, cultural, and/or artistic purposes.

**Adjourn 2:34 p.m.**