



VCNAA MEETING MINUTES

Approved November 8, 2023

October 11, 2023

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Calvin Coolidge Conference Room
6th Floor Davis Building, National Life
Montpelier, VT
and Virtually

VERMONT COMMISSION ON NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS



vcnaa.vermont.gov

COMMISSION
Richard Holschuh, Chair
Daniel Coutu, Vice Chair
Deborah Reger, Secretary
Doug Bent
Melody Walker Mackin
Jeffrey Benay
Pat Lamphere
Deanna Edwards
Open Seat

Members present: Rich Holschuh, Doug Bent, Dan Coutu, Jeff Benay, Deb Reger, Deanna Edwards; online Commissioners: Melody Mackin

Absent: Patrick Lamphere

Guests: Shirly Hook (Chief Koasek of Koas), Roland Bluto, (Nulhegan), Jess Robinson (Vermont Division for Historic Preservation); Guests online: Elodie Reed, (VT Public), Shalini Suryanarayana, (Office of Racial Equity), Morgan Lamphere, David Savoie (Canada Radio)

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm

1. Introductions

The guests introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Approval of September Minutes

The minutes were approved by consensus.

4. Ethical Code of Conduct

Chair gave protocol aka ethical code of conduct expected at the meeting.

5. Repatriation Policies

Dan Coutu asked about repatriation protocols and Jess Robinson will give a presentation at the next meeting on this process. Federal process follows the Native American Graves Protection

Act of 1990 (NAGPRA). State Agencies have their own protocols. The State of Vermont may be a “Consulting Party” with each project site specific.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Act 182 (2022) Land Access & Opportunity Board report

Dan Coutu reports there are job openings that will be filled by end of year This project is funded for 5 years.

7. Act 142 (2022) Racial Justice Statistics Advisory Council

Gathering of information and meetings are planned.

8. Act 154 (2022) Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Act 154 meeting will happen in the next few months.

9. Act 174 (2020) "Vermont State Parks - Abenaki signage" status

With no movement, a discussion of Abenaki flags being raised at workplaces and schools was discussed.

10. Act 128 (2022) VT Truth & Reconciliation Commission -TRC (Melody Mackin)

A report by Melody Mackin was given that included the first Tuesday public meeting was held, info on the website (<https://vtrc.vermont.gov/>).

11. Act 152 (2022) Nondiscriminatory school branding/mascots – status

No update.

12. Seventh Generation Curriculum Grant Committee report (Jeff Benay)

Seventh Generation Curriculum Grant Committee report from Jeff Benay, which included a suggestion from an informal meeting with Agency of Education representatives that the VCNA and AOE form a partnership that may include going to the Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies (VASS) Annual Conference in December. And, finally, we also discussed developing a blurb for the AOE Social Studies website where we could direct educators for information and resources. Jeff has offered to invite someone from this meeting to present at the next VCNA meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

13. VCNAA part-time staff position with Agency of Commerce & Community Development/Division of Historic Preservation

The VCNAA part-time position was discussed and a committee will develop a suggested job description.

14. Vermont Mental Health Professional Licensing Study (Jeff Benay)

Act 117 requires a study of “Vermont Mental Health Professional Licensing” and the Office of Professional Regulation has asked VCNAA to participate in a survey committee that will meet once a month. Jeff Benay is forming a committee with recommendations for the next VCNAA meeting.

15. Environmental Journal Symposium, early Nov., VT Law & Graduate School

The Environmental Journal Symposium will happen early Nov at Vt Law and Graduate School.

16. Support Statement for State Tribal recognition process from VCNAA

The support statement from VCNAA for the state Tribal recognition process was passed by consensus.

17. Tribal representative reports

- Nulhegan has a food shelf once-a-week.
- Koasek of Koas wrapping up the garden.
- Missisquoi continues cultural teachings and Joanne Crawford is stepping down as chief.

18. Public Comment

No public comments.

Meeting Adjourned