

APPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 9, 2013



vcnaa.vermont.gov

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COMMISSION

Carlton Bertrand Jr, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, 1st Chair
Trudy Ann Parker, 2nd Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupre
Lucy Cannon-Neel
Dave Van Deusen
Shirly Hook
Patricia Johnson

Members Present: Joe Bertrand, Chair; Jeffrey Benay, 1st Chair; Trudy Ann Parker, 2nd Chair; Charlene McManis, secretary; Andrew Beaupre, Lucy Cannon-Neel, Shirly Hook and Patricia Johnson.

Members Absent: David Van Deusen

Guests: Donald Parker, Lunenburg; Carol Irons, Albany; Duncan Matthewson, Middlebury; Trudy Thomas; Montpelier.

The meeting was brought to order by Joe Bertrand, Vice-Chair at 1:06 at the State House in Montpelier.

1. Public Comment

Carol Irons spoke about her concerns regarding the commission's last meeting.

Discussion was held regarding communication, education, state-wide arts and crafts, and Abenaki Heritage Day event. Andy moved to have Shirly and Carol will head the Abenaki Heritage event and contact the four tribes. Trudy seconded. All agreed. Fred will be contacted to ask if it would be alright to be on the January agenda instead of the November. And for future agenda items, the secretary will forward information to the chair of approval.

Duncan spoke about having speakers for his CCV class in Winooski. Discussion was held. Jeanne Brink, Fred Wiseman and Charlene McManis will be speaking to his class.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Middlebury College – communications

Discussion was held regarding the incident at the Middlebury College. The Addison Independent news article dated 9/16/2013 stated some students removed all the flags honoring those who died on 9/11, claiming it dishonored the Abenaki sacred land. Trudy stated that kids today are growing up without knowing history. After much discussion, emergency meetings procedures will be utilized on a case by case basis, 24 hour posted on both VCNAA websites, meet within 48 hours. Trudy Thomas will be contacted for posting in the government VCNAA website. Andy and Jeff will compose a press release on the VCNAA presence in Vermont and send it out to all available news vehicles.

1. Next Meeting

Discussion was held about secretary. Andy approved the minutes as submitted. Trudy seconded. All agreed.

Andy moved to elect Charlene McManis as secretary. Joe seconded. Andy moved nominations to crease. All agreed.

Joe moved to have a break at 2:20pm. The meeting resumed at 2:37pm.

2. Action Plans/Committee Set-Ups

After much discussion, the following committees were established:

Cultural – Shirly, Trudy and Pat

Educational - Lucy, Jeff and Andy

Social Policy – Joe and Dave.

Discussion was held regarding communication. Lucy read the surveys that were submitted to the commission. Discussion was held. The commission members will give a brief report of the VCNAA activities to their tribal community. Discussion was held.

After much discussion, eight action plans have been initiated as follows:

1. Establishing Title VII education from high school to career for Orleans County to be headed by the Lucy and Jeff (Educational).
2. Establishing Scholarships to be headed by Andy (Educational) and Jeff (Social Policy).
3. The Jim Peterson Plaque to be headed by Andy (Educational) and Dave (Social Policy).
4. Abenaki Heritage Gathering to be headed by the Cultural committee and Carol Irons.
5. Archeological Notification Process to be headed by Andy (Educational).
6. Meeting with Governor Shumlin to be headed by Trudy (Cultural), Jeff and Joe (Social Policy).
7. Establishing Dialogue with Political Leaders to be headed by Trudy (Cultural), Jeff and Joe (Social Policy).
8. State-wide co-op arts & crafts to be headed by Shirly (Cultural) and Carol Irons.

The results will be returned at the next meeting. Joe will contact Vera Longtoe Sheenan to see if she is interested working with Shirly & Carol on the State-wide co-op. Charlene will send out the action plan for all the commission members to fill in and send it to Charlene for present at the next meeting.

3. National Native American Month

Tabled.

4. Community Service Block Grants

Tabled.

5. Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Room 10, State House in Montpelier.

6. Announcements

Joe informed the commission about the movie **The Hungry Hearts**. Many Missisquoi children starred in that show. Sally Reno wished to have community forums after the film to discuss opium problem. Discussion was held.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.

Respectfully,

Charlene McManis
Secretary