

APPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 9th, 2014



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

COMMISSION
Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupre
Walker Brook
Dave Van Deusen
Shirly Hook
Patricia Johnson
Trudy Ann Parker

Members Present: Lucy Cannon-Neel, chair; Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andrew Beaupre, Patricia Johnson, Trudy Ann Parker, Dave Van Deusen.

On Phone: Shirly Hook

Absent: Walker Brook.

Guests: Dale Azaria, DHP; John Moody, Sharon; Donald Parker, Lunenberg.

The meeting was brought to order by Jeff at 1:13pm at 133 State Street, Basement Room 21, Montpelier.

1. Public Comment
No public comment.
2. Revisions/Changes
No revisions/changes
3. Approving March 12th 2014 minutes
Tabled until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resubmission of Koasek Traditional Band Application

Andy stated that the application has been entirely redacted. The commission needs to appoint three member academic panel to review. Also a public hearing has to be scheduled and a letter is to be sent to the tribe. Charlene will send a timeline to the commission members. Andy felt the commission needs to set aside an entire meeting to review this application. The prior commission members reviewing the application were Andy, Charlene and Dave. Jeff asked if the same three academic scholars should review this. Discussion was held regarding the list of scholars. Discussion was held regarding the criteria from the law. Andy would be willing to write the opinion again. After such discussion, it was decided that Andy, Lucy and Charlene would review the application. It was also decided to have the panel to only review based on the four criteria. Discussion was held regarding how to find scholars for the review and who began the list of scholars. Melody Walker Brook began the list. Andy will ask William Hart, Colin Calloway, Melody Walker Brook, and David Stewart Smith if they would be interested to be on our list of scholars. Nate and the commission need to approve

the scholars. Andy will email to the scholars on the list to make sure they are willing to remain on the list. The commission will decide at the next meeting on the scholars. The schedule is as follows:

- May 14th - decide on the scholars.
- August 15th – receive scholar reports
- September 10th – discuss the results
- October 8th – public meeting for the application
- November 12th – vote on the application.

Discussion was held regarding the application's name. Discussion was held regarding commission members' renewal for the New Year. It was decided to have Giovanna send up the renewal of commission members. The criteria the commission will review are 1, 2, 4, 9a and 9b. Charlene will send a copy of the original application for Walker and Pam. Charlene will invite Nate via email to the next meeting to appoint the scholars and the dates.

1. Selling of Abenaki Artifacts

Dale gave a brief report on the New Hampshire Law in 2009. The statute added that the removal of human remains cannot be sold. There was no clarity of this law. The law defined human remains as human remains and associated artifacts but one particular department was identified as the one making the decision. Discussion was held. Dale will email the copy of the New Hampshire law to the commission members. Discussion was held regarding the larger picture of this law. The commission will continue to pursue this issue. Discussion was held whether this issue should be the concern of the commission. It is the policy of the commission to assist the tribes if asked and to ensure protection for tribal rights. Much discussion was held. It was decided to move this issue as an action item with the educational/archeology committee.

The commission moved to break at 2:27pm.

The commission resumed the meeting at 2:40pm.

2. Native Vote Campaign

Charlene discussed the national campaign for getting out the native vote. Charlene will coordinate the Vermont native population using the four bands to get out the vote and find out what candidates are running. There is an on-line site called "Rock the Vote" where the citizen could fill the registration, print it and mail it out. Charlene may have a table at the gathering for Native Vote. Put it on the website. And speak on Moccasins Track. The theme is "Our Ancestors couldn't vote but we can." This campaign is non-partisan. Dave will draft a questionnaire on native issue for our website and candidates. The Worker Center will hold candidate forums. Discussion was held regarding candidates and native candidates.

3. Action Plan

A. Explore title VII Indian Education for Inclusion in the Orleans county School system.

Lucy received her second letter from Title VII. Lucy will be starting phase two. She is acquiring names of all the native students within Orleans Central. The application timeline is from April 14th through May 30th.

Lucy received the Lake Champlain grant for the Nulhegan Youth Drummers for the Abenaki Heritage Gathering. Circle of Courage will meet with Nulhegan Youth Drummers for a group practice. Diversity day is May 1st .

B. Establishing Scholarships

Andy drafted two legislations for native scholarships. Andy discussed the state's higher education trust fund. There was a question on page 3 – the part about funding. VSAC, Vermont colleges and UVM uses the higher education trust fund. Discussion was held regarding asking towns to donate to native scholarships. Discussion was held regarding various native tribes in Vermont. Discussion was held regarding what amount of scholarship should be considered.

C. Jim Petersen plaque

Andy will write out the text for the presentation of the plaque. A formal letter will be sent out by Eloise and Jeff. Discussion was held regarding what time to present.

D. Abenaki Heritage Gathering

Committee will meet on May 11th at 11am on State Street. Eloise will be attending. Charlene will take the minutes. Pat, Trudy, Walker, Jeff, Shirly, and Carol Irons will be there. Jeff read the letter draft for the governor to the commission and will be mailing it out. Charlene will place a poster on the website. Charlene will contact Carol Irons about the meeting.

E. Archeological Notification Process

Andy will bring the new draft at the next meeting. Discussion was held regarding the draft.

F. Meeting with Governor

Jeff contacted Shana Trombley regarding the commission meeting with the governor, first with the leadership, then meeting with all commissioners. Discussion was held. Jeff is waiting to hear from Shana.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Commissioners' expiration of terms is Trudy, Jeff, Pat, and Dave. Tabled until next meeting.
2. The issue of protection was discussed regarding the Koasek name.
3. Trudy will attend a press conference regarding minimum wage on April 10th at 11am over at Cedar Creek Room at the State House.

4. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be May 14th, 2014, 1pm – 4pm at 133 state building Montpelier.

5. Future Items

March minutes approved.

Action plan for the selling of Abenaki artifacts next session

The protection of Abenaki Heritage

Jeff Moved to Adjourned **3:50pm.**

Respectfully,

Charlene McManis

Secretary