

**VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS**



**VCNAA Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 15, 2012**



[vcnaa.vermont.gov](http://vcnaa.vermont.gov)

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**COMMISSION**  
**Luke Willard, Chairman**  
**Carlton Bertrand Jr, Vice-  
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**Charlene McManis, Secretary**  
**Andrew Beaupre**  
**Jeffrey Benay**  
**Lucy Cannon-Neel**  
**Dave Van Deusen**  
**Shirly Hook**  
**Trudy Ann Parker**

Members Present: Luke Willard, Chair; Carlton Bertrand Jr., Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andrew Beaupre; Jeffrey Benay; Lucy Cannon-Neel; Dave Van Deusen; Trudy Ann Parker.

Absent: Shirly Hook

Guests: John Moody, St. Albans; Nate Pero, Fairlee; Pat Leno, Fairlee; Julie Kelliher, DCHCD; Rep. Jim Masland, Therford; Chief Bernie Mortz, Havenhill, N. H.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Luke Willard at 1:05 at National Life in Montpelier.

**1. Approve minutes of April 17, June 26 and September 18.**

The April minutes were corrected from Louise Lampren-Lavierre to Louise Lampman-Larivee and from Lawrence Lapren to Lawrence Lampman. Charlene moved to approved April minutes as amended. Andy seconded. All agreed. Dave moved to approve the June minutes. Andy seconded. All agreed. Dave moved to approve Sept minutes. Charlene seconded. All agreed.

Luke requested a moment of silence for the passing of Chief Nancy Millett.

**2. Committee Introductions and Assignments**

Luke gave an overview of the accomplishments of the past two years of the commission and is looking forward to working with the new commission members. Luke gave a brief history of the establishment of the various committees.

**A. Education and Cultural Awareness**

Luke explained his original vision of this committee. This was to bring the foundation of education to the children and cultural awareness. Luke pointed out how Jeff has been involved with the workings of Indian Education Title VII. Andy explained further how archeology was included along with language revitalization. He spoke about setting up a native scholarship and using license plates to generate funds. Dave spoke about the green and gold scholarship from UVM. Discussion was held. Jeff spoke about current scholarships and applications for college available and assisting native students in applying. "To some people,

equality is when everyone is given a pair of moccasins. To Native Americans, equality is when everyone is given a pair that fits.”

Dave offered another program establishing apprenticeships between labor and native students. Luke mentioned that many times commission members cross-committee to bring about results.

## **B. Community Services**

Luke stated the original vision was the field and mid-level of social work. Luke gave an example of cross-committee with the Vermont Indian Child Welfare Act. He further explained the concept of VICWA. Also discussed were the cultural events like the Abenaki Heritage Celebration Week. Charlene spoke about setting up artisan workshops at various locations. Lucy stated she does lectures at school for October and November. Discussion was held about the raising the money and where to place the money received. It was decided that funded money need to be held in a non-profit organization. Jeff spoke about the previous Abenaki Heritage Week events. Hopefully, we can post native events on our website. Jeff asked about the cultural resource guide. Luke stated the cultural resource guide on the VCNAA website will be removed per Melody Walker Brook in order be updated.

## **C. LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

Luke explained about the committee. The focus of the committee is to take on the policies at the State House. The committee takes on the recommendation of state recognition and network with legislation. Also work on the higher levels of state agencies and state levels.

Luke explained when one member is assigned to a committee does not mean they only can work in that committee. There are a lot of inter-committee workings within the commission. It is about research to bring back to the commission.

Discussion was held. Joe wished to work with the Community Services. Trudy wished to work with the Community Services. Jeff will be joining with the Legislation/Policy. Lucy will be working in the Education/Cultural Awareness. So in the end, it will be Charlene, Trudy and Joe in Community Service. Andy, Lucy and Shirly will be in Education and Luke, Dave and Jeff will be in Legislation/Policy. Charlene will contact Shirly to see if she would be agreeable to transfer to the Education/Cultural committee. The Historical Department will advertise meetings. Joe asked where the assigned tasks for the committees will come from. Luke answered that it will come from committee members and public request.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Discuss Koasek Traditional Band of the Sovereign Abenaki Nation application.**

#### **A. ADDENDUM**

Dave asked Andy if the electronic addendum has been sent to the commission members and the hard copies to the scholars. Andy stated yes. November 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the scholars' reviews.

#### **B. REDACTION ISSUES**

There was an issue with the redactions of the application and additional addendum. That will be rectified and the scholars will make the necessary redactions. Andy asked the

question regarding the maiden/married names and street addresses. Andy had checked on the prior applications of other tribes and each one had been done differently. Luke asked Nate if he was aware of the maiden/married names and street addresses on the application. He was. Discussion was held. The four instances of familiar relationships will be redacted by the scholar and sent back to DHP for public record.

### **C. SCHOLAR REVIEW UPDATE**

Each scholar has received their packet and will send the application back to the tribe after review. The scholar panel can answer genealogical questions. Jim asked about sending new information and was told to send it as soon as possible. Discussion was held. Nathan would like a copy of the redacted application and addendum. Bernie also would like a copy of the redacted application and addendum.

### **D. SET DATE FOR MANDATORY PUBLIC HEARING**

Luke proposed to use the November meeting for the public hearing. The commission will not vote on that date. Luke reminded the commission to have their questions and comments ready. And the tribe needs to have their answers ready for the questions. Discussion was held regarding the date and place of meeting. Discussion was held regarding how the process works.

Moved to a five minute break. Meeting was brought back to order.

Discussion was held regarding the place held. Each commission member gave an opinion as to what would be best. The consensus was that place didn't matter. It could be either in Montpelier or in Thetford/Fairlee. More discussion was held. It was decided to have it on November 19<sup>th</sup> from 12noon to 4pm. Dave moved to power the chair to make the decision as to where have the public meeting in seven days. Lucy seconded. All agreed. Potluck will be at noon along with having housekeeping business conducted. Charlene will coordinate the potluck.

### **E. REVIEW TIMELINE**

Andy stated by statue that we have one year from time of receiving the application to act on the application. The time received was December 13<sup>th</sup>. The third Monday of December will be December 17<sup>th</sup>. Andy requested the commission panel to send draft a letter requesting extra time to review and recommend the application. Dave offered to draft the letter. Luke stated the letter should state the reason for extra time due to personnel changes with the commission and DHP. Jim asked who were the scholars reviewing their application. They are Neil Reinhart, Lisa Neuman, and Angela Labador. Discussion was held regarding the history of scholars and reviews of previous applications.

## **2. 2012 – 2013 Goal Setting**

Luke reviewed what the commission has accomplished the past year.

**A. Indian Child Welfare and State-Recognized Tribes in Vermont**

Luke explained the workings of the ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) which only provide protection of federally recognized Indian children. Within the boundaries of Vermont, the state has proclaimed the following recognized tribes as sovereign governments. Luke also explained the reasoning behind establishing the Vermont Indian Child Welfare Act. Discussion was held. Jeff explained Missisquoi foster care program to provide Abenaki foster parents for Abenaki children.

**B. Title VII Indian Education (North Country & Orleans Central Supervisory Unions)**

The committee will continue looking into scholarships, Title VII implementation in more counties, and tapping into labor apprenticeship. Also the commission talked about looking into generating revenues for these programs. Discussion was held having the tribes set up a functioning unity for political needs. Luke had some concerns regarding the commission handling such a task. Discussion was held. Dave moved to empowered Andy to speak with tribal members about college scholarships. Luke seconded. All agreed.

**C. Abenaki Heritage Week Revitalization, Montpelier Rally, etc.**

The commission approved for Charlene to schedule the state house lawn for a Saturday.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Waterbury State Hospital**

Jeff stated that there will be an honoring event and if there was a role to play for the Abenaki community. Discussion was held regarding bringing to light the eugenics program in this event. It was decided to bring this discussion to the tribes.

**2. New personnel in DHP**

Andy stated that the new personnel would not be able to take minutes for the commission. Charlene said she would investigate how many commissions are responsible for taking their minutes. Luke mentioned that Rep. Stevens asked what he thought about the creation of the Office of Indian Affairs.

**3. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be November 19<sup>th</sup> starting with a potluck at 12noon. The place will be announced at a later date. .

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene McManis