

VCNAA Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2011



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COMMISSION CHAIRMAN  
Luke Willard  
(802) 754-2216

COMMISSION  
Charlene McManis, Secretary  
Melody Walker Brook  
Dawn Macie  
Takara Matthews  
Nathan E. Pero  
Shirly Hook  
David K. Vanslette  
Fred W. Wiseman

Members Present: Luke Willard, Chair; Melody Walker Brook, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Shirly Hook, David Vanslette

Absent: Dawn Macie, Takara Matthews, Fred Wiseman.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Luke Willard at 1:00pm at the Calvin Coolidge Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor at National Life Building.

1. **Approve minutes of May 17, 2011.**

Charlene moved to approve the minutes. Melody seconded and all agreed.

2. **Testimony of Senator Hinda Miller**

The testimony was cancelled. No rescheduling was needed.

3. **Consider Draft Recommendation Report to General Assembly for: St. Francis/Sokoki Band**

The commission looked over the recommendation report with the following changes:

1. Page 6: line 2: add "...with portions of Swanton, Alburg, Highgate towns and other areas in Franklin..."
2. Page 6: line 4: remove "map of Lake Champlain"
3. Page 6: line 10: add "...Sokoki Band, I. E. clothing, tools..."
4. Page 6: line 11: start new paragraph with "Many Indian identifying customs, such as keeping fish eyes warm by keeping them beneath tongue, separated Missiquoi Abenakis from their Anglo and Franco-VT neighbors..."
5. Page 6: line 12: replace "gross" with "primitive."
6. Page 6: line 13: remove "would"
7. Page 6: line 16: remove "Abenaki"
8. Page 6: line 17: replace Vermont with "the region"
9. Page 6: line 18: remove "to destroy". Add period after "some of these sites. Begin new sentence with "Missisquoi..."
10. Page 6: line 20: replace "destroyed" with "threatened"
11. Page 6: line 21 & 22: Remove "80 of these grave sites were located in the Boucher cemetery which was later purchased by the State of Vermont where the exhumed bodies were..."
12. Page 6: line 25: replace "house" with "housing"

13. Page 6: line 26: start new paragraph with “Today Missiquoi...” and replace “yearly” with “annual”

14. Page 6: line 26 – 28: remove paragraph “Reaching out to the community...oral history and its people.”

Discussion was held. Charlene moved to accept the draft with noted edits. Shirley seconded.  
All agreed.

#### **4. Indian Child Welfare Act**

Discussion was held. Luke will continue meeting with Sherry Gould and Betty Johnson regarding Abenaki children in foster care. Luke will set up a meeting with the Department of Health & Human Services.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Abenaki Heritage Week in May**

Discussion was held. Luke suggested to get in touch with people who participate in the previous heritage week. Questions that came up: Funding resources? Presenters? It was decided to speak with Jeff Benay regarding the previous events. Charlene will work on next year’s event and bring to the next meeting.

#### **2. Nulhegan requesting assistance in securing funds for DOL INAP and Title VII Indian Education Fund.**

Luke read a letter from Nulhegan Chief Don Stevens requesting assistance in implementing the programs in the Northeast Kingdom. Discussion was held. Luke will draft a letter from the Commission to DHP and the Governor's office requesting the necessary resources.

#### **3. Special meeting**

It was decided to invite Jeff Benay to attend a special meeting to discuss Title VII and Abenaki Heritage Week. We’re looking at a special meeting at National Life at 5:30pm at a date most convenient for Jeff.

#### **4. Northfield Parade on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

It was decided to pass this information on to people in that region.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlene McManis  
Secretary