

APPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



**VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 12, 2013**

Members: Carlton Bertrand, Jr., Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andrew Beaupre; Jeffrey Benay; Dave Van Deusen; Shirly Hook; Trudy Ann Parker.

Member absent: Lucy Cannon Neel

Guests: Doug Bent, Braintree; Carol Irons, Albany; Don Parker, Lunenburg; Mary Johnson, Fletcher, John Moody, St. Albans.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Joe Bertrand at 1:03pm at 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT.

1. Public Comment

John thanked the commission for sending out the agenda early.

2. Approve May 8, 2013 minutes

Discussion was held. It was decided that all calls/emails should be deferred to the chair. Charlene moved to accept the minutes as amended. Andy seconded. All agreed.

3. Reports from committees

A. Policy

The committee has not met. The commission will reorganize the committees in September.

B. Cultural resources

No updates at this time.

C. Community Services

Discussion was held regarding Abenaki Heritage Week for this year and next year. Dartmouth Pow Wow is set around the Mother's Day's weekend. Discussion was held regarding the Governor's proclamation for next year and what activities we might organize. Dave brought to attention the first of May events that happened on the state house lawn. Discussion was held regarding creating a sub-committee just for the Abenaki Heritage Week. It was decided to table this Week for September. Discussion was held regarding the timeframe of the retreat due to membership change. The Governor appoints the commission members on September 1st. The retreat will be set up on the first week of September. The regular meetings will be the second Wednesday of the



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month in Room 10 of the state house beginning June through December, moving the meetings to National Life during the legislature session.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Vermont Women's Business Center – Mary Johnson

Mary passed out literature regarding the business center. Mary then talked about what the center offers. The mission is to help women entrepreneurs open and keep their businesses open. The center offers workshops, assist in business plans, and one-to-one business consulting. Discussion was regarding starting a business, co-ops, and business loans. Other subjects discussed: pricing of items, ethnicity biased, and collaboration. Dave suggested crafting a proposal having clear women centric for a meeting with the tribes and the Women's center with a deadline. Carol Irons proposed creating a centralized state Abenaki craft co-op. Mary offered to share consignment agreements. Dave offered to write up the draft to be sent to each member of each tribe, regarding this proposal. Mary suggested getting the Abenaki artisans together for a meeting to discuss a possibility of creating an artisan circle.

Joe informed the commission regarding an email from the Smithsonian regarding a list of Vermont Abenaki artisans. Dave proposed to initiating press releases on commission activities. Discussion was held.

The commission thanked Mary for her presentation.

Joe moved to have a break at 3:02pm. The meeting readjourned at 3:15pm.

2. VT Archeology Month: Set up a program in Barre

Discussion was held regarding the program in Barre for September. It was decided to have the program "First Women's Voices" on **Sunday, September 8th at 2pm over at the Historical Barre Society**. The women speakers so far are Trudy Parker, Shirly Hook, Carol Irons, and Charlene McManis. Joe Bertrand will be the moderator. Charlene will provide the refreshments. Andy will fill and send the application to DHP.

3. Commission's Vision

Tabled until September.

4. July Retreat (TBA)

The commission will not have a July or August meeting. It was decided the commission's retreat will be on **Saturday, September 7th, 2013 from 10am to 5pm over at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge**. Before the regular meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 1pm to 4pm. Location to be announce. Discussion was held regarding the talking points: orientation, commission role, strategic planning (mission & vision), and action planning (goals, objectives, timelines, person responsible). Charlene will put together a new member packet, including Act 107.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Vermont Land Trust letter

Dave drafted a letter to the Vermont Land Trust requesting their map book to be color-coded, reflecting Abenaki owned land. Discussion was held. Charlene will mail out the letter to the president, director of the Vermont Land Trust and cc to Tracy Zschau, regional director.

2. Updating VCNA website

Discussion was held regarding having an administrator to update the website.

3. Future Agenda Items

Indian Child Welfare – Sept

What is the charge for the commission – Sept

Education – Sept

Application appeals – Sept

4. Next meeting

Saturday, September 7th, 2013 from 10am to 5pm at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge.

5. Announcements

Joe announced that Sheenan-Longtoe and TK are working on creating an Abenaki Artisan Registry. Also Missisquoi is looking into acquiring land for an Abenaki Museum and Center.

Jeff requested prayers for a Missisquoi elder, Sandy Shedrick.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene McManis