

UNAPPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2013



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT
(802) 754-2216
lukewillard@live.com

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

Members Present: Carlton Bertrand Jr., Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, secretary; Andrew Beaupre (via phone); Jeffrey Benay; Lucy Cannon-Neel; Dave Van Deusen; Shirly Hook and Trudy Ann Parker.

Luke Willard - Absent

Guests: Carol Irons, Albany; Trudy Thomas, VHP; Donald H. Parker, Lunenburg; Chief Nate Pero, Fairlee; John Moody, St. Albans; Duncan Mathewson, Middlebury; Alice Mathewson, Middlebury; and John Kessler, ACCD.

The meeting was brought to order by Vice-Chair Joe Bertrand at 1:04pm at 133 State Street Building, BGS room 21.

1. Approve minutes of November 19, 2013 and December 19, 2013

Andrew requested a copy of the November and December minutes. A correction on the November minutes – Chief Paul Bunnell, Were, N. H. and the name is Jim Masland. Andrew abstained from approving the minutes. Charlene offered to read the minutes aloud. John Kessler informed the commission regarding the requirement of minutes. Charlene moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Shirly seconded. All agreed.

A. Community Services

Charlene passed out the new poster for the Abenaki Heritage Celebration Week with the changes made. Charlene also received a complete list of schools in Vermont so she could send the poster and a cover letter to promote the Abenaki week. Lucy offered to help with dispersing the material via email. Jeff asked who the material would be sent to. Charlene stated she would be sending this to the fourth grade teachers in elementary school and the history department in high schools. Charlene also needed approval for having a cultural demonstration at the State House Lawn on Saturday, May 11th. According to the rules, no vending is allowed. However, the artisans are allowed to bring brochures, business cards and paper for potential customers' information. Dave offered to send the event information to the various organized labor. Charlene suggested that VCNAA have a booth for promotion. Discussion was held. Joe moved to empowered the committee to move forward with this event. Dave seconded. All agreed.

Joe wished to discuss the delay of the draft of the Koasek final report. Giovanna Peebles asked Andy if the report could be discussed in old business since it was not slated. Jim suggested that the topic should be identified in old business and that it is acceptable to discuss the topic but not to take action until the next meeting. Discussion was held regarding the setting up of agendas. Lucy moved to have the secretary set up the agenda in an expeditious manner. Joe seconded. Discussion was held regarding the final report. Joe wished to apologize to the applicant for delay of the final report. Joe moved to empower for the committee to send out the report to the commission and make changes for the next meeting. Dave moved to allow one week time period for the commission to read the draft report, voice any changes to Andy, the Chair and the Vice-Chair and if we do not hear any propose changes, it will become the official report. John discussed the process of the approval of the report. More discussion was held. Dave moved for a 12noon meeting for March 29th. Andy seconded. All agreed. Shirly thanked Trudy Thomas for all that she does. Discussion was held. Agenda items will be sent to Charlene who will forward the drafted agenda to the chair to review. If no response, it will be assumed the agenda is good to go. Discussion was held. Joe moved to for a 10 minute break at 2:18pm. Joe brings the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

1. Title VII – Indian Education Presentation

Jeff passed out the grant application from the Indian Education to the members. Jeff presented how Missisquoi worked with the supervisory union to create various educational programs. Lucy will be working with the Orleans Central and North County regarding Title VII. Title VII Part B is looking at early childhood education like pre-school/ kindergarten. Title VII Part C is looking at adult education like GED. Title VII Part A is working with elementary/ secondary school education. Missisquoi started with Part C first, and then Part B and finally Part A. Jeff gave some personal anecdotes on creating the various programs. Jeff suggested Lucy to investigate tutorials, after-school programs, and cultural enrichment. Jeff stressed to establish a parent advisory committee for the grant monies. The money goes directly to the school system. The supervisory union must have at least ten Native American children in their school system. Jeff also suggested putting together partnership and/or collaboration. The grant is not competitive. It all depends on numbers of Native children. Jeff offer to meet with Lucy with her supervisory union regarding Title VII.

2. Update to the Indian child Welfare Act

Jeff met with Doug Racine discussing the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act and what could the state look at in regards to state-recognized community. The FICWA gives the tribes first shot to care for the child. Jeff informed Doug that the state-recognized bands would like the same consideration as the FICWA. The bands would train for foster-parenting using either Abenaki trainers or non-Abenaki trainers with cultural competency. This program requires no money. Jeff then gave some history in the previous foster parenting classes co-sponsor by UVM. Two pilot programs are considered: one in Northeast Kingdom and one in Franklin County. The committee will be looking at this at a bottom up instead of a top down. By creating these pilot programs, the administration will consider policy changing. Jeff stated the commission should set up a task force for this endeavor. Doug Racine is on board with this project. Discussion was held. Dave asked Lucy if she would peruse this issue with Nulhegan. A press release and photo shoot should be implemented when everything is set up.

Dave moved to have Charlene send an official communication to give a synopsis of this project to all the bands. Charlene will create a draft and send to Luke for approval. Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Comment

Duncan Mathewson inquired about Fred Wiseman's proposal regarding a cultural center back in November 2010 meeting. Discussion was held. Charlene will get back to Duncan on this matter.

John Moody questioned the Chair's involvement with the process of the Koasek petition. Discussion was held regarding the process and the law's intention. Discussion was held regarding the timeline of the application. John Kessler suggested readdressing the nine criteria and duties of the commission. John requested a copy of the bill. Charlene will send a copy.

Discussion was held.

2. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 12noon on March 29, 2013. Location TBA. Charlene will resend Andy's report to all commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene McManis
Secretary

