

**VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS**



**VCNAA Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2011**



vcnaa.vermont.gov

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

**Luke Willard
(802) 754-2216**

COMMISSION

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

Members Present: Luke Willard, Chair; Melody Walker Brook; Dawn Macie; Takara Matthews; David Vanslette; Shirly Hook

Absent: Charlene McManis; Fred Wiseman

Guests: Roger Longtoe Sheehan; Maryann Horton; David Lacy; John Moody; Carollee Reynolds; Susan Rantanen; Colleen Madrid

A public potluck gathering began at 12:00 and guests were welcome to comment and discuss relevant issues.

Luke brought the Commission meeting to order at the Green Mountain National Forest Bldg. in Rutland, Vermont at 1pm.

1. Approve minutes of April 2011 Minutes

Charlene going through very tough times has not yet submitted the minutes of April's meeting. Luke also mentioned that Nathan Pero has resigned and that we wish him the best.

2. Abenaki Heritage Week

Tabled until Charlene is present as she is the point person on this matter.

3. St. Francis Sokoki Update

Luke mentioned that Shirly, Dawn, and Charlene have contributed to the Commission's legislative report and it is ready to be compiled into a draft and proofed. The General Assembly convenes in January so we have plenty of time to approve the draft.

4. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

Luke met with Sherry Gould and Betty Johnson to gather information in regards to state-recognized tribes and ICWA. He assumes that Native children are only identified by their appearance which is a shame and an injustice. Luke mentioned a Nulhegan family whose children were recently removed from the home and placed into a non-extended family and non-Indian residence. The tribe has not been notified by the state which leads them to believe that children are not being properly classified as American Indian. It is our hope that the Commission can act as a resource to the Department of Children and Families and Vermont tribes once we have a better understanding of ICWA.

5. Rochester Cairns

Green Mountain Forest Service archeologist, David Lacy, requested that this topic be discussed in executive session due to the site location's exemption from public record. The Commission agreed. Dave V moved to enter executive session at 2:30pm. Shirly seconded. Dawn Macie moved to exit executive session at 3:45pm. Shirly seconded.

6. No new business was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Melody Walker Brook