

**VCNAA Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2010**



vcnaa.vermont.gov

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, Chairman; Melody Walker Brook, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Dawn Macie; Takara Matthews; Nathan Pero; Shirly Hook; David Vanslette; Fred Wiseman

Guests: Fred Wiseman, Swanton; Chief Nancy Millette Doucet, Koasek; Linda Longtoe Sheehan, Elnu; Katie Dye, Elnu; “Miss Lucy” Neel, Nulhegan; Billie Largy, Nulhegan; Nancy Daceir, Derby; Rachel Dugen, Morgan; Roxana Deyo, Nulhegan; Kathy Joyce Phillips, Nulhegan; Sandra Kilburn, Swanton; Ron Kilburn, Historic Preservation; Axie Noyes, Plainfield; Alain Berube, Nulhegan; Mandi Berube, Nulhegan; Randy Smith, Clan of the Hawk; Lorene Liberty Curtis, Clan of the Hawk; Eugene St. Onge, First Nation Bear Clan; Travis Collins, Nulhegan; Jaime Collins, Nulhegan; Evelyn Willard, Nulhegan; Donna Shelton, Nulhegan; Carol Irons, Albany; Robert Smith, Caledonian Record; Anne Showalter, Milton; Mike Showalter, Milton; Debbie Willard, Nulhegan; Jessica Davis, Nulhegan; Lisa Davis, Nulhegan; Dwayne Davis, Nulhegan; Hope Bent, Nulhegan; Keith Davis, Nulhegan; Nancy Davis, Nulhegan; Bradley Davis, Nulhegan; Todd Pronto, Orleans; Roger McManis, Montpelier; Grace Mekersic, Holland; Roger Longtoe Sheehan, Elnu; Deb Smith, Westmore; Andrew Pike, Newport; Frank Cheney, Nulhegan; Yvonne Dague, Nulhegan

12PM

Before the meeting convened, a potluck and informational forum was held with questions, testimonies and statements. There was a general sense of neglect and a lack of cultural awareness among the guests who testified. Passionate testimonies in regards to Abenaki education and essential needs, or more specifically, the lack of it were voiced by many. Also many questions were posed in regards to the process and benefits of state recognition. Koasek, Elnu and Nulhegan submitted applications to the commission.

Luke brought the meeting to order at the Goodrich Memorial Library in Newport at 1:47pm.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes of October 19, 2010

The minutes were reviewed. Nathan moved to accept the minutes as written. Fred seconded. All agreed.

2. Native American Heritage Month

Luke read Governor Douglas's proclamation of Native American Heritage Month which was met by a large round of applause. Last proclamation was May 17, 1993 by Governor Salmon. Several events were discussed including the panel discussion at UVM and the "Circle of Courage" program in Swanton. Discussion was held regarding planning more extensively next year. It was brought up that the first week of May was proclaimed as Abenaki Heritage Week and that October is Archaeology month. Native American Heritage Month will be a frequent item on agenda.

3. Abenakis & Schools

K-12 Curriculum - Luke spoke about the need for Abenaki history and contemporary social studies in the K-12 curriculum. Luke asked for a motion to update the New Dawn curriculum and issue it to the all schools in this state. TK moved to update the New Dawn curriculum and seek funding in order to print and distribute the updated information to every school in Vermont. Dawn seconded.

Teacher's Resource Guide - Discussion was held regarding developing an educators' resource guide. It was explained that a few resource guides were already available. The commission agreed to update and combine all information and make it available to the public.

Title VII Indian Education - Luke passed out information about Title VII Indian Education. Discussion was held regarding tutoring, cultural revitalization, and language. There was high interest from our guests, all in favor of Title VII in the local school systems to increase cultural awareness.

4. Update of Scholar Review Panel

Credentials and a short bio of Eloise Beil. TK moved to accept Eloise Biel into the active scholar's list. Fred seconded. Melody will update the panel list and forward to members. Luke asked Melody to get a bio on Scott Dillon.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Meeting Locations

New meeting locations will be added to the website. Governor-Elect Shumlin will be addressing the commission at our January 19 meeting in Montpelier.

After a statement of gratitude from Luke to our guests, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Charlene McManis, Secretary