

UNAPPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2013



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

COMMISSION
Jeffrey Benay, 1st Vice-Chair
Trudy Ann Parker, 2nd Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupre
Lucy Cannon-Neel
Dave Van Deusen
Shirly Hook
Patricia Johnson

Members Present: Jeffrey Benay, 1st Vice-Chair; Trudy Ann Parker, 2nd Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andrew Beaupre, Shirly Hook, Patricia Johnson.

Members Absent: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Dave Van Deusen

Guests: Doug Bent, West Braintree; Dale Azaria, Burlington; Chief Bernie Mortz, Newbury; Duncan Matthewson, Middlebury; Mary Johnston, Fletcher; Carol Irons, Albany.

The meeting was brought to order by Jeff Benay at 1:20pm at the State House in Montpelier. Jeff apologized for the lateness of the meeting.

1. Public Comment

Dr. Matthewson informed the commission about the events happening in Middlebury and asked if these events could be placed on our website. Jeanne Brink will be speaking at Middlebury College on January 14th on Western Abenaki Culture History. This Saturday Fred Wiseman will be giving a talk about revitalization of Abenaki Culture in Vermont. Dale Azaria introduced herself to the commission as new General Council of the Department of Vermont Historic Preservation. She will be reviewing applicants for the open commission seat. Jim Kessler said he can still be consulted on commission matters.

Chief Bernie spoke. He had concerns about protection for recognized tribes. Discussion was held regarding information received and safeguards on tribal names. Much discussion was held. Discussion was held regarding on sending information via other means. Charlene will request Trudy to place the commission members' addresses and phone numbers. Charlene will draft up a letter regarding the first matter, sending it out later in January. Bernie will send a letter to the commission. Berne gave a commission application to Dale to add to the pool. The commission will meet with the Governor later on to discuss issues and concerns.

2. Agenda Revisions/Changes

The agenda will add Joe's resignation, the press release, the archeology notification and Monty Mason.

3. Approve October 9th minutes

Andy moved to accept the minutes as written. Pat seconded. All agreed.

4. Action Plans

The commission worked on the action plans. See attached. Discussion was held for each action item.

Jeff moved to create a Jim Peterson's Memorial. Shirly seconded. Jeff spoke about Jim Peterson relationship with the Abenakis. Jim Peterson was a professor at UVM some 30 years ago. He supported the Abenakis in their goal for recognition, offering his services. Unfortunately, Jim passed away unexpectedly. All agreed with the motion. The next meeting will discuss the list of educational priorities to bring to the Secretary of Education.

Charlene moved to accept the action plan as designed. Andy seconded. All agreed. Charlene will send the revised plan along with the minutes.

Jeff moved for a break at 2:33pm.

The meeting was brought back to order at 2:45pm.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Joe Bertrand's resignation

Charlene moved accept Joe's resignation as chair and commission member. Shirly seconded. All agreed. Discussion was held. Charlene will draft up a thank you/get well card for Joe on behalf of the VCNAA. Andy moved to have Jeff as acting Chair until January when elections can be held. Shirly seconded. All agreed.

2. National Native American Month

Jeff stated the commission will have the governor proclaim National Native American Month for next year. This item will be placed on the action plan under Meeting with Governor Shumlin and Establishing a Dialogue with Political Leaders. The commission will offer the Secretary of Education their assistance in this event. Discussion was held.

3. Community Service Block Grants

After much discussion, the commission will explore these grants. Charlene will thank Meghan Benesh for her offer; however, the commission cannot pursue her service since their agenda is full at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mary Johnson – Vermont Business Women Network

Mary informed the commission about an Abenaki Artisan's website created by Vera Longtoe Sheenan. Much discussion was held. Charlene read the press release that was posted on Mark Mitchell's VCNAA website. More discussion was held. Shirly will contact Vera regarding having a meeting with her, Mary Johnson and the cultural committee. Charlene will draft up a letter to the VBWC allowing Mary to be part of the Cultural Committee's action plan of Establishing a State-wide Co-op Arts and Crafts.

2. UVM Student Request for Interview

Commission member Pat Johnson will contact the UVM student for interview.

3. Archeology Notification

Andy described the details on the document, noting 4 points. Point One – a copy should go to the tribes on any archeology site’s one page letter. Point Two – tribes should receive information of any archeology findings. Point Three – tribes should be informed on Phase Two and Phase three. Point Four – all agencies should have their contractors promote public involvement. Discussion was held regarding the draft of the notification. Charlene asked the question regarding the Stockbridge-Munsee band noted on the document. Much discussion was held. Andy will contact the representative of the Stockbridge-Munsee band. Trudy moved to table the accepting of the document until further notice. Shirley seconded. All agreed. Andy excuses himself from voting.

4. Monty Mason

Dave sent an email regarding the passing of Monty Mason’s son Dustin. The commission gave a moment of silence. Charlene will type the letter drafted by Dave to be sent to Dustin’s family on behalf of the VCNAA.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th over at 133 State Street, Room 21, Montpelier. Time will be from 1pm to 4pm. Andy will be in Quebec City.

6. Announcements

The Commission library has a copy of Hungry Heart for viewing. Shirley – Andy – Trudy – Charlene will view the movie.

There will be a flag-raising ceremony at the Missisquoi High School, 100 Thunderbird, Swanton, on November 21st at 1pm. The Circle of Courage will be performing. All commission members are invited. The VCNAA press release was passed around to be reviewed by commission members.

Andy moved to adjourned.

7. Future Items

- Scholarship information – January
- Voting of new Chair – January
- Fred Wiseman – January
- Archeology notification - February
- Hungry Heart Movie – on-going
- Safeguard for recognized bands
- List of educational priorities to bring to the Sec of Ed

Respectfully,

Charlene McManis
Secretary

