

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



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(802) 754-2216

COMMISSION
Luke Willard, Chairman
Melody Walker Brook, Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupre
Dave Van Deusen
Betty Johnson
Shirly Hook
Takara Matthews
Fred W. Wiseman



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2011

Members Present: Luke Willard, Chairman; Melody Walker Brook, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andrew Beaupre; Dave Van Deusen; Betty Johnson; Shirly Hook; Takara Matthews; Fred W. Wiseman

Guests: Duncan Mattewson, Middlebury, VT; Jesse Laroque, St Johnsbury, VT; Prof. Fred Wiseman, Swanton, VT; John Moody, NH; Rhonda Besaw, NH; Carol Irons, Albany, VT

A public potluck began at 12noon and guests were welcome to discuss issues.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Luke Willard at 1pm at the Gallery Building, NVDA Section in St. Johnsbury, VT. Charlene McManis said a prayer and a moment of silence was offered for those lives suffering and lost from Tropical Storm Irene.

1. Introductions, Rules of Order and Officer Elections.

Luke introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Commission members. Annual election of officers – It is agreed that Charlene McManis will remain as Secretary. It is agreed that Melody Walker Brook will remain as Vice-Chair. It is agreed that Luke Willard will remain as Chairman. Discussion was held about communication between commission members. It is agreed that Fred will put together a Gmail account for the Commission members to help with communication. It is agreed that the secretary will mail out all handouts to absent Commission members. The secretary will also inform Commission members (via email) of all events that may be pertinent to members. Luke read the Commission's rules of order. A guest brought up the topic of people who identify as Abenaki (or Native American) but are not enrolled members of any tribe, and that Act 107 does not charge the Commission with assisting these Abenakis with no tribe. Luke agreed to add this topic to the agenda.

2. Discussion on the Relationship between archaeologists, indigenous people and sacred places.

Professor Fred Wiseman and Melody spoke on the lack of Native events for Vermont Archeological Month, September 2011 Calendar of Events by the Vermont Archaeological Society, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and funded by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration. Discussion was held as to how to increase Native awareness regarding the academic and scientific society.

3. Recommendations for State Recognition Update.

Luke gave an update for the status for the Koasek Abenaki of the Koas and the St. Francis/Sokoki Band. Both reports are ready to be submitted to the General Assembly. He intends to submit by November 2011.

4. Committee Assignments

Discussion was held the creation of committees to expedite goals faster and more efficiently. Luke recommended the following committees: Education, Social Services & Healthcare; Economic Development; Cultural Awareness & Revitalization; Government Policy, Legislation & Recognition; Conservation & Repatriation. Andrew moved to accept the committees as stated above. Takara seconded. All agreed. After further discussion, Dave moved to combine Economic Development and Education, Social Services & Healthcare. Shirly seconded. All agreed. Discussion was held regarding meeting times for committees. It was agreed to try to hold committee meetings and our regular monthly meeting on the same day to reduce travel. Due to time restriction, it is agreed that committee assignments will be dealt with next month.

5. Discussion on the process where the commission is notified on unearthed indigenous sites.

The Division for Historic Preservation's representative did not show up.

6. American Indian Heritage Month

Charlene passed out a mock flyer and a time frame for setting up Abenaki Heritage Week. Discussion postponed until next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. American Indian Wars lecture will be at the Springfield Library on September 21st at 6:30pm.
2. A benefit spaghetti dinner and silent auction will be held at the W. Braintree Town Hall, Rt. 12A, West Braintree, Vermont on October 1, 2011. All proceeds will go to the flood victims of Tropical Storm Irene.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene McManis, Secretary