

**VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS**



**VCNAA Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2012**



vcnaa.vermont.gov

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

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

Guests: Carol Irons, Albany; Nathan E. Pero, Fairlee; John Moody, St. Albans; Rep. Brian Savage, Swanton; Rep. Tom Stevens, Waterbury; Louise Lampman-Larivee, Missisquoi; Lawrence Lampman, Maquam; Brent M. Reader, Missisquoi; Chief John Churchill, Missisquoi; Carlton Bertrand, Missisquoi; Howard Vanslette, Missisquoi; David K. Vanslette, Swanton; Dave Skinas, Northfield; Jeff Benay, Fairfax; Doug Bent, Braintree; Rep. Jim Marsland, Diane McInerney, Duncan Mattewson, Middlebury; Michael O'Grady, Legislature Council.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Luke Willard at 1:06pm at the National Life Building in Montpelier. Introductions were made by commission members and guests. Luke reminded the guests of the rules of courtesy and respect.

1. Approval of the December 13th and January 17, 2012 minutes.

Dave moved to amend the December minutes to read the next meeting of June 17th to read June 19th. Luke seconded. All agreed.

Dave moved to approve the January minutes. Luke seconded. All agreed.

2. Committee Updates

A. Cultural Resources with Andrew, Melanie & Takara

Melanie spoke about creating an event for the Abenaki Heritage Week (May 7th thru May 12th). If anyone is working on events for the Abenaki week, please let her know. Her event will be on Tuesday, May 8th at 5pm at UVM. It's on the board calendar. Also UVM will be supporting Lucy Cannon-Neal on Indian education for the Northwest Kingdom. Melanie has reached out to the superintendent and Jeff Benay. She will continue communication with Lucy at a later date.

B. Community Service

Charlene spoke about the idea of artisan workshops as partnership with the Women's Business Administration. Betty continued the discussion saying that the WBA has grants available to setup such workshops as social media and marketing ideas. They offered classes, business plans, and independent workshops. Charlene also mentioned that the date for the State Lawn Rally has been set for May 7th from 12noon to 2pm, celebrating the start of

Abenaki Heritage week. Charlene will put in a blurb in Mark Mitchell's VCNAA and Facebook and sent the blurb out to Diane McInerary.

C. Government Policy

Luke spoke that the policy committee is working on 3 bills in the legislature at this time. One is the Missisquoi recognition. The other is the Koasek recognition and the third is S243, Vermont Indian Child Welfare Act, sponsored by Senator Illuzzi. It has since become an amendment to an existing law. The law will extend the protection of the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act to state-recognized tribes within Vermont. Rep. Diane Snelling has become the point person on this bill. The Missisquoi and Koasek status is still with the committee. Luke has spoke at the legislative session regarding these two bills.

3. Current Recognition Legislation: Discussion with Rep. Stevens and Rep. Brian Savage.

Rep. Stevens introduced himself and began with a brief history of S222. He spoke about the importance of the Federal Arts & Crafts, the criteria set and mirroring the North Carolina state-recognized bill. The ultimate goal was the re-creation of the Native American commission and let the commission review the applications for recognition. The legislation committee mostly focuses on the first two criterions. The committee had questions with Missisquoi's application regarding criteria one. "A majority of the applicant's members currently reside in a specific geographic location within Vermont."

The committee was satisfied with the criteria one with the Koasek application and will be acting positive.

Regarding Missisquoi's application, the committee was seeking the answer to criteria one as "yes." The issue with the application was that there was a discrepancy between the percent of 51% and 58%. The committee does wish to see this application pass.

Rep. Savage then offered the proposal of solution. The session is to end April 27th, possibly the April 28th. The committee will seek rules of suspension and move on this review.

Request to have this information regarding the rolls review by the commission and have Mr. Havilland, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Dann send in a one-page letter in answer to criteria one to the committee no later than this Friday.

Discussion was held. Dave asked Rep. Stevens if the commission received verbal commitment from the scholars to provide letters for the committee and if that letter doesn't reach them by Friday, can the commission give them in writing saying that the scholars will provide letters. The answer is yes, if we provide status of this process. Discussion was held. Brent Reader submitted the revised tribal roll that was reviewed on Saturday. The percent became 52.3%. Discussion was held. Luke stated the letter should say that there was an issue and that it was resolved. Brent asked should he state just the 52.3% as of April 17, 2012. The answer was yes. Luke thanked Rep. Stevens and Rep. Savage and for Missisquoi for coming. Discussion was held.

Dave moved that Takara was satisfied with the methodology of the revised Missisquoi tribal roll. Andrew seconded. All agreed.

Brent can draft up a letter to the commission that they do have the majority and that it reflect 52.3% today. Discussion was held. Luke proposed that the commission should have before

leaving this meeting with two letters, one from the commission and one from Missisquoi. And contact the scholars today for the one-page letter.

A five minute break was moved by Dave and seconded by Luke so that the commission could review the tribal rolls.

The meeting resumed. Melanie will draft a letter to the scholars. Takara offered her laptop for the job. Discussion was held. Brent offered the methodology on the process regarding the rolls.

Dave moved that we accept Takara's recommendation and we are satisfied with the way in which the tribe calculated that number. Andrew seconded. All agreed.

Charlene will write up a one paragraph letter to the state house committee saying we are satisfied that Missisquoi meets criteria one and the answer is yes. That 52.3% percent live within the target counties as of April 17th and we are satisfied with the methodology which the tribe used in calculation.

Second, have someone from the tribe write a similar letter to the committee. Melanie will send emails to the scholars. Someone will follow-up with phone calls either during the meeting or after. And the commission will draft a pending letter saying to the committee that we have communicated with scholars and we are confident that the scholars will provide the letters as recommended; however this may come at a later date because of time constraints.

4. Trade name "Koasek Traditional Band" discussion

While some commission members worked on assignments, Luke, Shirly, Takara, Andrew, and Betty continued the meeting. The application of the Koasek of Koas has been approved and sent to the state for recognition. Discussion was held. Luke asked if Koasek had a certificate from the Secretary of State saying their tribal council owns the tribal name on the application. Discussion was held. A suggestion was made for Nate to go on the website and apply for the trademark and pay the amount needed. Nate explained the history between the two tribes. Discussion was held.

5. Update of the Review of the Koasek Traditional Band application for recognition

There was an issue with finding scholars but that has since been resolved. Melanie needed contact information and bio from the additional scholar. Discussion was held regarding the first criteria with the issue of geographical territories. Discussion was held regarding the tribal rolls. Discussion was held regarding the distinction of geographical territories. Luke suggested that he, Dave and Fred would be willing to meet with Koasek of the Koas and Koasek Traditional Band as mediators in the hopes to explore stronger territorial boundaries. Andrew would provide a map of Koasek Traditional Band tribal members and their location.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Science Scholarship

Jeff Benay passed out a website copy of EPSCOR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research). It is open to Vermont Native American students who enters STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program. This scholarship will be available every year. This year's applications are due April 25th.

2. Missisquoi Discussion

Melanie emailed the scholars. Andrew drafted the letter to keep on file regarding the expectation of scholar's letters. Charlene has completed the letter and typed it on Takara's laptop. Letter from the tribe has been printed. Dave moved that Charlene be empower on our behalf to write this letter on behalf of the commission to the committee regarding the St. Francis band of the Abenaki. Luke seconded. All agreed. Dave moved that we empower Andy Beaupre to prepare a letter in waiting that will be sent regarding the scholars in our expectations that they will fulfill the house committee's request. Betty seconded. All agreed. Dave moved to empower Melanie to contact on our behalf the scholars to request the information that the committee requested of us. Luke seconded. All agreed.

3. Native Scholarship with Vermont Colleges

Andy did some background research regarding setting up a Native American scholarship with Vermont colleges from the Commission. It needs \$10,000 in an endowment account. But can open with any amount. Andy will continue to pursue this and report again at the next meeting.

4. VCNAA Meeting Location

Charlene asked that the VCNAA meetings locations to remain at National Life for the benefit of consistency for the community to attend.

5. Betty's membership

Betty requested if she could phone in for attendance for our meetings from Colorado. She needs a number. Everyone agreed.

6. Charlene moved to go into executive session for personnel reasons. Takara seconded. All agreed.

7. Commission out of executive session as of 4:35pm. Discussion resolved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene McManis
Secretary