

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



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**COMMISSION**

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**VCNAA September 14, 2016  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Carol Irons, Paul Fassler, Joelen Mulvaney, and Rich Holschuh.

**Members Absent:** Cheryl O'Neill

**Guests:** Eugene Rich, Missisquoi; Carol McGranaghan; Duncan Matthewson, CCV; Dale Azaria, VDHP; Jess Robinson, VDHP; Jenni Lavoie, VDHP. Ms. Lavoie records the minutes at the request of the commission.

The meeting was brought to order by Lucy Cannon-Neel at 1:30 pm at 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, conference room.

**1. Changes to the Agenda**

CT River Hydro Re-Licensing will be added to the action plan as item f.

**2. Public Comment**

Jess Robinson, State Archaeologist, advised the commission of upcoming events for September's archaeology month. Also, he advised commission members that he was contacted by a town manager interested in changing Columbus Day into Indigenous Peoples Day.

John Moody notified commission members of an outreach event at Castleton University, regarding the recent archaeological survey work in West Haven. Also, Mr. Moody advised that the Iberdrola wind project in the southern part of the state was moving forward.

Rich Holschuh advised his fellow commission members of an inquiry he received through the commission's Facebook page. The inquiry was regarding a potential presentation at the Veteran's Hospital in White River Junction.

**3. Approve June 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes.**

Consensus was reached to approve the June 8, 2016 minutes with one minor edit.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Action Plan**

**a. Developing Teaching Materials**

Carol Irons stated that the committee is still gathering information and materials. All state-recognized tribes have been invited to participate.

Ms. Irons and Paul Fassler summarized their trip with Jeff Benay to a summer camp in southern New Hampshire. They discussed the camp facilities, on-site activities, and potential partnerships. The goal would be to send Vermont's native youth to an Abenaki summer camp within this property in the future.

**b. Dept. of Health – Native Style Treatment & Recovery Program in Swanton for Alcohol & Opiate Addiction**

Joelen Mulvaney advised that a grant was submitted to the federal government for some programs related to treatment and recovery. The grant was not selected and they will be resubmitting the grant in the next cycle. The Vermont Department of Health is currently planning to open a facility in St. Albans. The native community would like to see a satellite office in Swanton and home space for those in recovery. Ms. Mulvaney advised that a location was tentatively selected in Swanton, although there are now ideas of constructing a new purpose-built facility instead.

**c. Improve Communications with Tribes**

Rich Holschuh advised that the Facebook page is still gaining "likes." Jenni Lavoie advised she is continuing to send out the agenda and meeting minutes to the tribes. Lucy Cannon-Neel noted an increase in communications she has received from the tribes.

**d. Native Traditions Conference**

Lucy Cannon-Neel stated that due to other events the weekend of September 24, the conference date was changed to October 22, 2016. Discussion focused on the tentative agenda, advertising, and commissioners who shall be attending the conference. Ms. Cannon-Neel recounted that she has heard from members of the native community that because this is a commission-sponsored event the VCNAA commissioners should all be allowed to attend.

**e. Bullying and Harassment in Vermont Schools Study**

This goal will be combined with item b: Native Style Treatment & Recovery Program in Swanton for Alcohol & Opiate Addiction. The grant noted by Ms. Mulvaney includes bullying and harassment.

**f. CT River Hydro Re-Licensing**

Rich Holschuh provided commission members with a handout summarizing the process of the Connecticut River hydro re-licensing and the state tribes involved. He indicated that work will begin with a consultant in November to create a second Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) study. The first study, presented back in May, was compiled and prepared without native participation. This new study will involve the native community.

Lucy Cannon-Neel moved to break from 2:30pm – 2:45pm

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Election of Officers**

Topic was tabled until October. Commission members requested the delay until new members are appointed by the governor.

### **2. Goal Setting**

Commission members shared future goal ideas, such as property owners of sacred sites not paying property taxes, archaeology processes, legislature for native scholarships to be funded with special native license plates, Indigenous People's Day, and addressing looting at sacred sites. Selection of goals was tabled.

### **3. Action Planning**

Topic was tabled.

### **4. Announcements**

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised she had received an email from Duncan Matthewson, who was in attendance, regarding the Dakota pipeline. He asked if any representatives would be sent to North Dakota to support the Standing Rock Sioux. Commission members indicated that letters of support have been written and native representatives are traveling to hand deliver the letters.

## **Adjourn**