

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



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Paul Fassler  
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Eugene Rich  
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VCNAA April 11, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Carol McGranaghan (Chair), Jennifer Morton, Carol Irons (Vice Chair), Andrea Brett (Secretary), Paul Fassler, Cheryl Frobose, Rich Holschuh,

**Members Absent:** Eugene Rich

**Guests:** Jess Robinson (VDHP), Joanne Crawford (Alnóbiawi), Larissa Dillon, Duncan Mathewson III, Tiara Randall, Casey Brewer; Dominic Petkukay, Riley Sweeney, Katie Goodwin, Kelley Story, Lane Fury

The meeting was brought to order by Carol McGranaghan at 1:04 pm at 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, in the Montpelier conference room.

### 1. Changes to Agenda

Commissioners agreed to move the Schoolhouse student questions to the first item after the recognition of guests. Carol McGranaghan also added an item related to F. W. Forestry to the New Business portion of the meeting.

### 2. Approve March 13, 2019 Minutes

Paul Fassler moved to adopt the minutes without amendment. Jennifer Morton seconded the motion. All other commissioners concurred.

### 3. Recognition of Guests

Carol McGranaghan (Chair) requested that all the commissioners and guests introduce themselves. Afterward, all the guests were welcomed to the meeting.

### 4. Schoolhouse Student Questions

Students from the Schoolhouse in South Burlington, led by their teacher Kelly Story, came to the VCNAA meeting to learn about the Abenaki and ask the commissioners a series of questions about aspects of Abenaki life and history for year-long projects they are working on. The commissioners appreciated their interest and provided the students resources for further study.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Commission Seat Application Review**

Several commissioners stated that they were aware that several people had applied to be on the VCNAA and asked whether VDHP had received notice of the applications. Jess stated that he had not heard of any applications being received, but would inquire to office of Boards and Commissions about their status.

### **2. Abenaki Cultural Regeneration Project**

Carol Irons stated that due to a lack of interest among children and adolescents, the three-day program in June at the Northwoods Stewardship Center will be geared toward adults. Carol Irons also stated Melody Brook participated in an event in central Vermont that resulted in approximately \$1,500.00 in donations for the project. Mrs. Irons stated that if additional monies are raised, they have the option to hold another three-day event in August. Mrs. Irons and her colleague are still waiting to hear if they have been awarded a grant from First Nations.

### **3. Tribal Inter-Communication**

Rich Holschuh state the VCNAA and Missisquoi Facebook pages are still very active and continue to gain engagement and followers.

### **4. Indigenous Peoples' Day**

Rich Holschuh stated that H. 119 (An act relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day) was being discussed in committee that afternoon and he was hopeful that it would be voted on the House floor in a couple of days. After that, Mr. Holschuh was cautiously optimistic that the governor will sign the legislation. He also stated that New Mexico has adopted Indigenous Peoples' Day statewide, Montana tabled their initiative, and Maine is still debating their Indigenous Peoples' Day legislation.

### **5. Status Report**

#### **a. CT River Hydro Re-Licensing**

Rich Holschuh stated that there is nothing new to report this month.

#### **b. VT Public Utilities Commission – Vermont Yankee**

Rich Holschuh stated that he hopes to meet with the archaeological consultant hired to do the work for Vermont Yankee within the next month or so.

#### **c. Statehouse Display**

Carol McGranaghan stated the governor will sign a proclamation declaring the first week in May as Abenaki Recognition and Culture week on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 A.M. He will not attend the Statehouse exhibit opening later in the day, however. The exhibit opening celebration will feature statements from the Chiefs, a welcoming song, potentially an Abenaki prayer, and other events.

#### **6. Native American Support for Inmates**

Commissioners still need to follow up on this item.

#### **7. A Screening of Dawnland**

Lane Fury stated that the screening of Dawnland is scheduled for May 19 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Capitol City Grange. All donations generated at the event will be given to the Abenaki Cultural Regeneration Project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Burlington Airport Abenaki Display**

Carol McGranaghan reported that Chief Don Stevens received a grant for \$15,000.00, which will allow him to install an exhibit of museum quality Abenaki art at the airport in the future.

#### **2. Abenaki Recognition and Culture Week Events**

Joanne Crawford noted that Alnóbiawi will be hosting a week of events at the Ethan Allen Homestead, and all are welcome to attend and there is space to camp attendees are so inclined. The events will include dances, classes, living history demonstrations, and film screenings.

#### **3. Public Comment**

Jess Robinson noted that Eugene Rich gave a wonderful speech at the Lake Between Conference at the University of Vermont on Monday.

#### **4. Announcements**

- the El Nu are sponsoring a shad fishing event at Turner's Falls in June,

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM.**