

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 17, 2014



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

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COMMISSION

Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupré
Walker Brook
Shirly Hook
Patricia Johnson
Trudy Ann Parker

Members Present: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Andre Beaupré, Walker Brook, Shirly Hook, Pat Johnson, Trudy Ann Parker.

Guests: Jess Robinson, DHP; Dale Azaria, DHP; Trudy Thomas, DHP; Doug Brent; Donald H. Parker; Carol Irons; Kathleen Blake; Nate Pero; Chief Paul Bunnell.

The meeting was brought to order by Lucy at 1:07pm at the Barre Archaeology Heritage Center.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lucy asked for introductions from the members and guests.

2. Selection of Chair

Jeff moved to table the Selection of Chair until next meeting. Shirly seconded. All agreed.

3. Public Comment

John stated the Peace and Justice are withdrawing the petition of removing Perkins name from the UVM Hall. For point of information to the guests, Jeff stated this comment was in reference to a letter received from the May 14, 2014 meeting. John passed the said letter dated May, 2014 from Peace and Justice and UVM to the commission members.

4. Revisions/Changes

None.

5. Approving June 11th & July 7th minutes

Andy moved to approve June 11th minutes as amended. Trudy seconded. All agreed. Andy moved to approve the July 7th minutes as amended. Shirly seconded. All agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resubmission of Koasek Traditional Band Application

Lucy turned the meeting over to Dale to discuss the issues of the scholar reports. Jeff stated that two of the scholar reports have been received. The third one has not been received due to unforeseen circumstances. Dale's recommendation would be for the

commission to delay one month for the third scholar report, having the public meeting on November 12th and the final determination on January 14th. John asked when did the commission find out that the third scholar did not receive her application. Jeff stated the information was two days ago. Paul stated he was contacted by the one of the scholars about clarifying information from their application. Discussion was held regarding the process of validating information sent to the scholars. John asked if it was possible to conduct a special meeting in order to keep the timeline. Discussion was held. Andy asked the tribe would they be agreeable to send the application to the scholar for review. Dale stated DHP could send the information electronically. Discussion was held regarding turnaround of the scholar report. Paul is concerned about the time delay. Andy passed the two scholar reports to Nate and Paul. Discussion was held regarding the timeline. Much discussion was held regarding sending only the four criteria. John wanted it noted that he has concerns about sending only four criteria to the scholar and will deferred the decision to the tribe. Shirley moved to change the following dates of the application:

October 8th – discuss the results

November 12th – Public meeting for the application

January 14th – vote on the application.

Walker seconded. All agreed.

Lucy moved to break at 2:14pm.

The meeting reconvened at 2:37pm.

2. Results of Abenaki Heritage Gathering

The gathering was a success! A brief discussion was held regarding the children and the plaque. More information will be tabled until next meeting.

3. Native American Issue Candidates

Charlene passed out the drafted survey to the members. Discussion was held. Charlene will make the changes of the survey and send out via email to all potential candidates.

Andy moved to have Charlene send the surveys out to the legislative candidates. Shirley seconded. All agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Open Meeting Law – Dale Azaria

Tabled until next meeting. Discussion was held regarding recuing oneself from voting.

Andy read the law regarding who can vote.

2. New Action Plan

Jeff suggested to the commission to think about strategic planning at the next meeting.

Andy made some suggestions about shopping around for some representatives to support some ongoing projects. It was decided to send Andy legislature names for contact.

Discussion was held regarding tribal land resources. Archeological Notification has not been completed. Discussion was held regarding receiving input from the tribes.

Discussion was held regarding supporting tribal children attending a leadership environmental education in New Hampshire.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 8th at the State House, Room 11 from 1pm to 4pm.

4. Announcements

none

5. Future Items

Strategic planning – October

National Native American Month – November

Abenaki Gathering – June

Moved to Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene McManis

Secretary