

UNAPPROVED

VERMONT
COMMISSION
ON
NATIVE AMERICAN
AFFAIRS



VCNAA Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8th, 2014



vcnaa.vermont.gov

CONTACT

COMMISSION
Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair
Charlene McManis, Secretary
Andrew Beaupre
Walter Brook
Dave Van Deusen
Shirly Hook
Patricia Johnson
Trudy Ann Parker

Members Present: Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair;; Charlene McManis, Secretary; Walker Brook; Dave Van Deusen; Shirly Hook, Patricia Johnson, Trudy Ann Parker.

Absent: Andrew Beaupre.

Guests: Fred Wiseman, Swanton; Carol Irons, Albany; John Moody, Sharon; Donald Parker, Lunenburg; Doug Brent, West Braintree; Trudy Thomas, Montpelier; Dale Azaria, DHP.

The meeting was brought to order by Chair at 1:04 at 133 State Street. Introductions were made for the newest member, Walker Brook, to the commission.

1. Public Comment

Doug stated the meeting last month was run very well, kudos to the current chair. Carol inquired about the voting for Chair at this meeting. Discussion was held regarding the racial component of the VCNAA chair. Discussion was held regarding the current action plan and chair's facilitation in the meeting. After such discussion, the commission moved to have Fred's presentation at this time.

2. Fred Wiseman: Abenaki Harvest Results

Fred gave a power point presentation regarding traditional view of pre-contact Abenaki culture regarding indigenous food entitled the Haven Project, meaning a safe haven for native information. The four "R's" of the Haven Project are Realization, Repatriation, Revelation and Revival.

In the fall of 2012, the Haven Project offered its resources to all the bands. Steve McComber, Kahnawake Elder and ethno botanist has been working with Fred since 92-93. Fred discussed the indigenous variety of seeds and animals, cropping systems, ceremony, ceremonial regalia, dance and ritual.

Fred discussed the intricacies of the Green Corn Song and the Sun Dance. Western Abenaki songs have been recorded on CDs. And the instruction of the Serpent Dance, the Sun Dance, the Rain Dance, the Eagle Dance, and the Green Corn Dance will be on video by the end of this year.

Fred played a video with Melody on the Ceremony of the Sun and discussed the results of the Abenaki Harvest and the Haven creating an Abenaki cuisine cookbook.

Fred also discussed the process of saving seed without having the contamination of cross-pollination. Fred will be going to the International Seed School in Tucson, Arizona next month. Haven will have a graduate course at UVM during July and August. Discussion was held. Fred will send data of the class information to Lucy and Charlene.

Jeff motioned to break at 2:21pm.
The commission reconvened at 2:33pm.

3. Approve November 13, 2013 minutes

Charlene moved to accept the amended minutes. Lucy seconded. Discussion was held. All agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. On-Going Action Plan

Charlene will have extra copies of the Action Plans at every meeting. She will also send a copy to John Moody.

EXPLORE TITLE VII INDIAN EDUCATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE ORLEANS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Lucy met with the local supervisory unions and principals. They agreed in starting the process. Discussion was held. Jeff stated the next step is to ensure that there are at least 10 native students enrolled in the school system. Lucy will be starting phase II of this process.

ESTABLISHING SCHOLARSHIPS

Tabled until the next meeting.

JIM PETERSEN PLAQUE:

Jeff asked if the commission gave the approval of moving forward. The answer was yes. Tabled until next meeting. John Moody will send information to Pat Johnson regarding the issue.

ABENAKI HERITAGE GATHERING:

Shirly passed out handouts. The gathering will be June 28 and 29, 2014 at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. All four tribes are involved. Discussion was held.

The committee will be looking into financial support for this event. Letters of support can come from the VCNA. Discussion was held regarding the naming of the event. Walker volunteered for the committee. The committee will decide the title of the event. Three tribes have committees for this event. Still need a committee from Nulhegan. Discussion was held regarding programs like "Across the Fence."

ARCHEOLOGICAL NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Tabled.

2. Voting for New Chair

Much discussion was held regarding changing of leadership. Dave moved to both parts to have Jeff, Vice-Chair, as facilitator and Lucy as Chair. Trudy seconded. All agreed. A press release

regarding Walker Brook, our newest member and Lucy as Chair will be sent by Jeff. Lucy will provide her bio and quotes to Jeff.

MEETING WITH GOVERNOR SHUMLIN:

Jeff will contact the governor's office for the initial meeting with Chair and Vice-Chair to go over the goals of the VCNAA, then set-up of a full commission meeting with the Governor at the fifth floor conference room. Dave stated the commission should have talking points at the next meeting.

ESTABLISHING VOCATIONAL DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL LEADERS:

Discussion was held regarding academic and vocational education. Dave suggested using the Dept of Labor's resources for vocational. The educational power is in the many supervisory unions. Also discussion was held regarding the NEA conference in November.

STATE WIDE ABENAKI ARTISAN CO-OP:

Shirly informed the commission that VT business women network is working with Vera. Shirly will call Mary Johnson next week to learn of the results.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Future Speakers

Jeff stated that future speakers should be relevant to the commission's goals. Dave spoke about having bargaining agents speak about looking for ways to engage with the Abenakis. Discussion was held. It was decided to invite them to the next meeting in February to speak for an hour about economic development.

4. Updating the VCNAA Website.

Tabled.

5. Safe-guarding of tribal.

Jeff gave previous information regarding Missisquoi and gaming. Some recognized tribes are concerned about the hearsay of this and possible pulling of state recognition. Jeff stated state recognition is law and would have to go back to the process of the state legislature to amend the law using both house committees and voting in both houses. Discussion was held. Dale Azaria, legal counsel for VHP, stated the commission's understanding of the issue is correct. Jeff read the letter drafted to Missisquoi. After much discussion, the letter to Missisquoi was dismissed. Charlene will draft letters to invite the chiefs of recognized tribes to attend the February meeting on economic development for everyone. Lucy will inform Chief Mortz regarding the outcome of this discussion.

6. Announcements

Lyndon State College will have their Annual Cultural Festival on March 10th through 15th and are looking for Abenakis to come and participate. For future information, please contact Christina.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 12, 2014 from 1pm to 4pm over at the 133 State Street, Basement Room 21, Montpelier.

Lucy moved to adjourned at 4:21pm.

8. Future Items

**Union leader speakers – February
Economic Development**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene McManis
Secretary