

# New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs

January 16, 2018, 10AM Meeting Minutes

Vail 513, The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

## Members Present:

Kathleen Black (KB), Chair  
Sheila Charles (SC)  
Kayla Schweitzer (KS), Secretary  
Kris Neilsen (KN), Treasurer  
Shawn O'Leary (SO), Vice Chair

## Members Absent:

Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (BAW)

**Public Attendees:** John Moody (Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions), Paul Pouliot (Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People), Denise Pouliot (Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People), Kianna Burke (Dartmouth NAP), Madeleine Wright (NH Nulhegan), Carol Irons (VCNAA), Carol McGranaghan (VCNAA), Paul Fassler (VCNAA), Art Hanchett (Cowasuck VT), Melody Brook (VCNAA, Elnu), Rich Holschuh (VCNAA)

**Quorum:** No. Items that required voting on the agenda were discussed but tabled for vote at the next meeting.

## Meeting Proceedings:

1. **KB** Calls meeting to order at 10:06am
2. **KB** Welcome
3. **KS** Secretary report: Tabled
4. **KB** Moved to Committee Reports
  - a. Nominations Committee:
    - i. **KB:** Asked public attendees to leave during this discussion
    - ii. **Open Discussion** among attending NHCNAA members regarding three pending applications
    - iii. **KB:** Invited public attendees back into meeting
5. **KB** Calls for Introductions
6. **KB** Moved back to Committee Reports
  - a. Education Committee:
    - i. **SO:** Shared update on the Hanover School District incident in which an outdated curriculum had sixth grade students acting as colonists and planning an attack on Native Americans
    - ii. **Open Discussion** on the teaching of local history and indigenous studies in the State of New Hampshire
      1. Education Committee will follow up with the NH DoE for more information
  - b. Arts and Crafts Committee: no report
  - c. Social Services Committee: no report

The New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs was established by HB1610 in 2010 and is administratively attached to the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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- d. Protection and Preservation Committee:
  - i. **KB, SC and KS** met with Dick Boisvert (State Archaeologist)
  - ii. **NHCNAA** sent letter of concern for archaeological sites to Dick with interest in being included in future discussions
  - iii. **Open Discussion** on the site of Acquadocton, other archaeological sites and collections containing Native American artifacts and grave goods in NH
7. **KB:** Moved to discussion about Rules of Order and Decorum located on the Commission's website
  - a. **NHCAA members:** general consensus to remove sentence on meetings needing to be rescheduled if there is no quorum
8. **KB:** Moved to discussion of scheduling the next NHCNAA meetings
  - a. Tuesday, April 24
  - b. Tuesday, July 24
  - c. Tuesday, October 23
9. **KB:** Moved to discussion of the Durham Mural
  - a. **NHCNAA** has sent a letter of concern to Senator Shaheen on this matter
10. **KB:** Moved to discussion of bill changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day
  - a. **KB** attended the hearing on HB1604
  - b. **Open Discussion** on bill and Indigenous People's Day in the state
11. **KB** moved to discussion on mascots in NH
  - a. **KB:** 4 mascots in NH have native related names
12. **KB adjourned** meeting at 10:55am

**NHCNAA Meeting Adjourned**

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## **NHCNAA and VCNAA informal meeting**

1. **KB** Calls meeting to order at 11:17am
2. **KB** Welcome
3. **KB** Calls for Introductions
4. **KB** Calls for informal discussion, no set agenda
5. **Kianna Burke:** Proposes the creation of a community center for ceremonies and meetings
  - a. **Open Discussion** among attendees on locations and upkeep of center
6. **KB** thanks **Kianna** for proposed project and turns the floor to the **VCNAA**
7. **Rich Holschuh** Moved to **open discussion** of Indigenous People's Day in Vermont
  - a. Bills in both Senate and House
  - b. VT Governor has issued Indigenous People's Day proclamation (1 year)
  - c. **Open Discussion** on the federal holiday, state rights, town charters and grassroots approaches (educational approach)
    - i. Discussion on Joint approaches by the Commissions
8. **Carol McGranaghan and Melody Brook** moved to **open discussion** to Indigenous studies in VT with curriculums and kits available
  - a. Groups working with historical societies to create curriculums
  - b. Title VII money available to create curriculums
9. **Lunch Break** at 12:19pm
10. **Meeting resumed** at 12:57pm
11. **Paul Fassler** moved to discussion of Mascots
  - a. Vermont has 4-5 mascots
  - b. Joint approach openly discussed for Commissions
12. **Carol Irons** moved to discussion on the Abenaki Cultural Regeneration Project
  - a. Foundational camp lasting for 5 days on woods lore knowledge, language, spiritual knowledge, history and plant knowledge
  - b. Seven people attended
  - c. Looking for funding opportunities to continue camp in the future
  - d. **KB** discusses the Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions' language gatherings
13. **Melody Brook** moved to discuss the "Affirming Traditions Conference"
14. **Paul and Denise Pouliot** moved to discuss their project on collecting and documenting Abenaki music
15. **Art Hanchett** moved to discuss social stigmas and getting people involved with their communities
16. **John Moody** moved to discuss Census reports
17. **KB** thanked everyone for attending
18. **KB adjourned** the meeting at 2pm