

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs
January 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Kathleen Blake (KB), Chair
Shawn O’Leary (SO), Vice Chair
Kayla Schweitzer (KS), Secretary
Garrett Chapman (GC), Treasurer
Peter Kenney (PK)
Sheila Charles (SC)
Denise Pouliot (DP)
Daniel Howard (DH)
Madeleine Wright (MW)

Members Absent: Anne Jennison (AJ), Barbara Shea (BS)

Public Attendees: Mark Doperalski (State Archaeologist-NHDHR), Sherry Gould (Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation), Anne Podlipny (INHCC), Mike Franklin (Public)

Quorum: Yes

Meeting Proceedings:

1. **DP** Calls meeting to order at 3:40PM
2. **DP** reads and **Open Discussion** on Senate Bill 33 – relative to Native American name restoration
3. **SC** names sponsors of bill
4. **DP** reads Senate bill’s analysis
5. **KB** Welcome
6. **DP** continues to read and **Open Discussion** on Senate Bill 33
 - a. Concern expressed over the use of “required” in the bill language
 - i. Required to consult Commission?
 - b. Historical Markers do not fall under bill
 - c. Concern on time, resources and resources to do this
7. **KB** The NHCNAA is holding an emergency meeting pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.
8. **KB** Roll Call/Introductions
9. **KB Open Discussion** on Senate Bill 33
 - a. **KB** Pleased that the indigenous community would be represented/consulted
 - b. **DH** There will be continued interest in this by communities
 - c. **DP and KB** Language experts within indigenous community
10. **Public Comments**
 - a. Sherry Gould – spoke with Ruth Ward (one of bill’s sponsors) who thought bill language would require consulting the Commission rather than optional, expressed concern on lack of Abenaki language experts on Commission, Commission seats are being held/not filled at this time, a lot of work and no compensation
 - b. Mike Franklin – encouraged that the indigenous people will be consulted, bill is a good step

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs
January 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting

11. Continued **Open Discussion** on Senate Bill 33
 - a. **DH** bill is a good thing but need to clarify language, would need to build a process and policy – lot of work
 - b. **MW** expressed caution over bill but supports the idea, issue is too much power for Commission, need to consult other indigenous groups
 - c. **SOL** likes the idea but needs to be done well, needs to be done with native speakers, needs to be from the community
 - d. **SC** already expressed concerns, concern on timeframe on potential response/timeframe elements
 - e. **DP** concerns on language of bill, could make adjustments in House
 - f. **PK** concern on language of bill
 - g. **KS** agree with other Commission members, language modification needed
 - h. **GC** more time and care needed for bill
 - i. **KB** agree with other Commission members on concern with the language of bill, encouraged that there is a bill
12. **KB** Would the Commission like to invite Senator Watters to a meeting to discuss bill?
13. **KB** motion to speak on behalf of Commission at Senate hearing
 - a. “We are pleased to have this bill brought forth. We appreciate that we have been included. We do have concerns about the language and feel that modifications need to be made. We would like to have enough time to consult constituents about this.”
 - b. Roll call vote: unanimous; approved
14. **KB** will invite Senator Watters to a meeting to discuss the bill
15. **KB adjourned** meeting at 5:08PM

NHCNAA Meeting Adjourned

Section 1 Header

2021 SESSION

21-0922.0

04/05

SENATE BILL *[bill number]*

AN ACT relative to Native American name restoration.

SPONSORS: [sponsors]

COMMITTEE: [committee]

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes cities and towns to name or rename locations or geographic features in the Abenaki language; requires the commission on Native American affairs to assist cities, towns, and the state when requested in determining historic or otherwise appropriate Abenaki language names for locations and geographic features; and requires that the commission on resources and development act as the state contact for the federal government for state naming issues.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to Native American name restoration.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Findings. The general court finds that the commission on Native American affairs established
2 in RSA 12-A:14-a is critical to recognizing the historic and cultural contributions of Native
3 Americans to New Hampshire, and the promotion and strengthening of Native American heritage.
4 Therefore, the general court finds that Native American place names are a rich legacy that ought to
5 be valued and visible, and as such, the general court supports local and state initiatives to restore
6 and assign Native American names to places and geographic features.

7 2 New Subparagraph; Department of Cultural and Natural Resources; Commission on Native
8 American Affairs. Amend RSA 12-A:14-a, VI by inserting after subparagraph (c) the following new
9 subparagraph:

10 (d) Assist municipalities and the state when requested in determining historic or
11 otherwise appropriate Abenaki language names for locations and geographic features. The
12 commission shall consult with the division of historical resources and the council on resources and
13 development established in RSA 162-C in its capacity as the state of New Hampshire's geographic
14 names authority, as necessary. Nothing in this subparagraph shall affect the legislative authority
15 over naming pursuant to RSA 4:43.

16 3 New Section; Powers and Duties of Towns; Native American Name Restoration. Amend RSA
17 31 by inserting after section 39-e the following new section:

18 31:39-f Native American Name Restoration. The governing body of a town, after consultation
19 with the commission on Native American affairs established in RSA 12-A:14-a to determine the
20 historic or otherwise appropriate Abenaki language name for a location or geographic feature
21 situated in the town, may name or rename such location or a geographic feature in the Abenaki
22 language.

23 4 New Paragraph; Powers of City Councils; Bylaws and Ordinances; Native American name
24 Restoration. Amend RSA 47:17 by inserting after paragraph XIX the following new paragraph:

25 XX. Native American Name Restoration. The governing body of a city, after consultation
26 with the commission on Native American affairs established in RSA 12-A:14-a to determine the
27 historic or otherwise appropriate Abenaki language name for a location or geographic feature
28 situated in the city, may name or rename such location or a geographic feature in the Abenaki
29 language.

30 5 New Paragraph; Council on Resources and Development; Responsibilities; Geographic Naming
31 Authority. Amend RSA 162-C:2 by inserting after paragraph XI the following new paragraph:

Section 3 Header

- Page 2 -

1 XI-a. Act as the New Hampshire geographic names authority which shall be the state
2 contact for the United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Department of the
3 Interior; and

4 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.