

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs
January 27, 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
Sheila Charles (SC)
Denise Pouliot (DP)
Daniel Howard (DH)
Madeleine Wright (MW)
Anne Jennison (AJ)

Members Absent: Barbara Shea (BS), Peter Kenney (PK)

Public Attendees: Senator David Watters, Darryl Peasley (Nulhegan Band of Coosuk Abenaki Nation), Michael Haley (NH DOJ), Ken Gallagher (NH Office of Strategic Initiatives), Mark Doperalski (NHDHR), Mike Franklin, Representative Timothy Horrigan, Ginnie Lupi (NHSCA), Andy Bullock (MKIM), Courtney Castro, Sue McKeivitt, Judy Sharkey (UNH), Rick Van de Poll, Sherry Gould (Nulhegan Band of Coosuk Abenaki Nation), Rebecca MacKenzie, Lorna Garfield (Nulhegan Tribal Elder), Cassi-Mae Gelinias, Anne Podlipny, Jenny Wright, Rob Wright (Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation)

Quorum: Yes

Meeting Proceedings:

1. **KB** Calls meeting to order at 3:33PM
2. **KB** The NHCNAA is holding an emergency meeting pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3.
3. **KB** Roll Call/Introductions
4. **KB** Welcome to Senator Watters and all
5. **Senator Watters** would have liked to share a draft of Senate Bill 33 – relative to Native American name restoration sooner, hearings take place so changes can be made including advice for this Bill, this is a way for sites to be renamed – but needs a process, revisions are in process
6. **Commission Members** comments on Senate Bill 33 (many expressed gratitude to Senator Watters as a supporter of indigenous peoples):
 - a. **AJ** Commission will need time to respond
 - b. **SC** noted she was glad that new bill revisions now confirm Town does the research and submits to Commission. Commission will still need time to respond.
 - c. **DH** need to establish process, determine authenticated Abenaki language, need to include Abenaki voices, ensure all tribal groups are engaged
 - d. **GC** agree that all tribal groups and stakeholders are represented
 - e. **DP** Senate Bill 33 is a good first step, ensure inclusivity is maintained, process is open to the public
 - f. **SOL** agree with fellow Commission members’ comments
 - g. **KB** names should be authenticated names and not new names made up, ancestors gave spiritual names (spiritual links), many sources are available in documents, needs process and suggested:

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- i. Town researches Abenaki names
 - ii. Town presents to NHDHR, Council on Cultural Resources, NHCNAA, tribal boards or stakeholders (commented that NHCNAA meets 4x per year but could meet as needed)
- h. **KB** suggestions for Senate Bill 33
 1. Change “assign” names to “restore” names
 2. Cancel “otherwise appropriate” (already removed in revision)
7. **Senator Watters** this is the beginning of the process on the bill, noted that this is an important step in education and social justice, noted that names can change except for names of rivers and mountains, federal government can deny some name changes (this could change now with new Secretary Holland), authority over process, recommendations could be made on public record, relayed that Senator Giuda noted recommendations are submitted following a vote from the public body, recommendations from the NHCNAA and NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) will be considered as recommendations from trusted specialists.
8. **MW** Can Commission deny name changes? Who has authority over the process?
9. **Senator Watters** Commission can inform stakeholders of its review and recommendations, state and federal boards will take this into account, Watters agrees that names need to be authentic (He noted the Colonial process of erasure), he noted that the process can be similar to the NAGPRA review process
10. **DH** agreed with the parallel to NAGPRA process and in this case it is language that is sacred as well
11. **DP** suggests to strengthen wording; agrees with following NAGPRA steps with NHDHR as a lead and have all parties included
12. **Senator Watters** noted that legislative drafting does not like the use of “and” and “or,” understands NHCNAA may be overwhelmed if there are many requests for review of names, maybe the Commission should be informed at start rather than at the end
13. **DP** Noted there is a difference between being informed and consulted, commission should be informed and consulted, research should be done by the town, use DHR consultation list for contacts and include NHCNAA
14. **KB** NHCNAA and all tribes on the DHR consultation list be consulted to ensure inclusivity – all have a voice, does not foresee NHCNAA will be overwhelmed
15. **Ken Gallagher** mentioned he chairs the Council on Resources and Development (CORD), reviews name changes too, any state body can respond to name changes, he receives proposals and consults with Council via emails (ex. DES, Forest & Lands), CORD has reviewed approximately 20 proposals for name changes in 12 years, most of which are submitted by the public. CORD is more of a reactive body, happy to have Senate Bill 33 and more structured input, as far as communicating on name changes – its advisory, reaching out and responding, include towns, counties, nonprofits, general public (DNCR is member of CORD); A recent example was a proposed name change to Pocahontas Cove, Ken connected with Denise Pouliot as a Sag8moskwa for the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People. Bill 33 is a good idea to provide more structured input, for review ahead of time; CORD has had about 24 reviews and only 3 were denied at Federal level

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16. **David Watters** spoke with both Ken Gallagher and Interior Secretary Holland and they think this is a good idea
17. **MW** If Commission has a negative finding, how would tribe learn about it?
18. **Ken Gallagher** all opinions of his committee are shared with federal board, recommends all towns get buy in from all stakeholder organizations
19. **Senator Watters** NHCNAA meetings and responses are public, so it will be shared
20. **DP** Commission should share responses with other tribes and stakeholders
21. **GC** Is it our responsibility or is it the tribes' responsibility to be represented on the Commission?
22. **AJ** too often Native voices are not heard or sought out, expressed need for transparency
23. **MW** supports Bill 33 but still have concerns
24. **DH** Supports Bill 33 with some concerns; appreciates Senator Watters' clarification, other details to be fleshed out later
25. **GC** Bill 33 is a good first step
26. **SOL** Supports Bill 33; Thank you Senator Watters for respect, trust and support
27. **KS** agrees with other Commission members comments
28. **KB** Supports Bill and appreciates inclusion; thanks Senator Watters
29. **Senator Watters** Thanked everyone for their wisdom and guidance, requested attendees to call him with their thoughts and questions
30. **DP** noted that there are 45 spellings for Lake Winnepesaukee in response to discussion on various dialects and place name locations, expressed there is no state process to recognize tribes although there are unanswered petitions to do so
31. **Public Comments**
 - a. Judy Sharkey – (UNH) hoping students can help, as they are looking at linguistic justice
 - b. Rick Van de Poll – curious what members of the public in support can do; interested in making sure appropriate spellings are used
 - i. **Senator Watters** recommended sending letters to attach to Senate bill, contact House members and can testify then
 - c. Sherry Gould – (Nulhegan Band of Coosuk Abenaki Nation), interested in new Federal initiative, hates to see NHCNAA and tribes in disagreement, important to work with local people and local history, noted that Abenaki language experts disagree, recommended work with the 4 state recognized tribes in VT (current boundaries are not native)
 - d. Timothy Horrigan – co-sponsor of bill, noted they will see what will happen in the House (likely in 2022) after Senate likely approves, looks forward to bill
 - e. Jenny Wright - expressed gratitude and that the bill was a good idea
 - f. Anne Podlipny - expressed gratitude to Senator Watters, noted it was a good time to put forth as Indigenous Peoples' Day is growing in recognition, mascots are changing, and education curriculum is changing
32. **KB adjourned** meeting 4:59PM

NHCNAA Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted by Sheila Charles and Kayla Schweitzer

p. 2, l. 10 Shall review recommendations from municipalities and the state concerning historic Abenaki language names, and may, when requested, assist municipalities in determining historic Abenaki names for locations and geographic features.

l. 18 The governing body of a town, after consultation with the commission on Native American affairs established in RSA 12-A:14-a or with tribal groups recommended by the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources to determine the historic Abenaki language name for a location or geographic feature situated in the town, may name or rename such location or geographic feature in the Abenaki language, upon vote of the governing body. The town shall inform the Commission on Native American Affairs of its action. To have a name proposed for recognition by the United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Department of the Interior, it shall submit the name to the New Hampshire geographic names authority.

l. 25 The governing body of a city, after consultation with the commission on Native American affairs established in RSA 12-A:14-a or with tribal groups recommended by the Department of Cultural and Natural Resources to determine the historic Abenaki language name for a location or geographic feature situated in the city, may name or rename such location or geographic feature in the Abenaki language, upon vote of the governing body. The city shall inform the Commission on Native American Affairs of its action. To have a name proposed for recognition by the United States Board on Geographic Names, United States Department of the Interior, it shall submit the name to the New Hampshire geographic names authority.