

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs  
February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Meeting

**Members Present:**

Kathleen Blake (KB), Chair  
Kayla Schweitzer (KS), Secretary  
Garrett Chapman (GC), Treasurer  
Sheila Charles (SC)  
Denise Pouliot (DP)  
Daniel Howard (DH)  
Anne Jennison (AJ)  
Peter Kenney (PK)

**Members Absent:** Barbara Shea (BS), Shawn O'Leary (SO), Vice Chair

**Public Attendees:** Mark Doperalski (NHDHR), Mike Franklin, Courtney Castro, Rick Van de Poll, Sherry Gould (Nulhegan Band of Coosuk Abenaki Nation), Rebecca MacKenzie, Madeleine Wright (Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation)

**Quorum:** No

**Meeting Proceedings:**

1. **KB** Calls meeting to order at 3:01PM
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:** Committee Reports
  - a. Arts & Crafts Committee
    - i. **KS** no report
  - b. Education Committee
    - i. **DP** no report
  - c. Nominations Committee
    - i. **AJ** no report
  - d. Preservation & Protection Committee
    - i. **DP** no report
  - e. Social Service Committee – no report
5. **KB** Invites **Mark Doperalski** to speak
  - a. **Mark Doperalski** received a letter from a historical society in a NH town who wants to share environmentally sensitive site information with their town's heritage commission for an impending construction/building project. Mark is interested in Commission's input and thoughts on whether NHDHR should be more proactive and approach towns with this type of information. Mark confirmed to Commission members that this environmentally sensitive site information is confidential and is not available under the Freedom of Information Act. **Commission Members** noted: NHDHR's relationship with NHCNAA, concern over the potential sharing of sacred site information, the need to establish a process, and the strategic approach of continuity of records to prevent the loss of institutional history and knowledge and for the passing of this information to future generations. Commission members expressed their appreciation for Mark to

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bring this to their attention but were in agreement to wait and explore this topic further.

6. **KB** moved to discussion on Indigenous Peoples' Day
  - a. **KB** noted that the hearing was encouraging and numerous members of the public attended. There was an amendment added to move Indigenous Peoples' Day to another day other than replacing Columbus Day. **KB** noted she commented against the amendment.
7. **KB** moved to discussion on NH Historical Markers
  - a. **KB** and **AJ** worked on compiling the priority list and adding comments. Discussion continued among Commission members regarding the priority levels of identified markers and desire to start working on developing new markers. **SC** noted that the NH Historical Marker advisory committee is just beginning this process and will seek out NHCNAA's input.
8. **KB** moved to discussion on Senate Bill 33
  - a. **KB** is concerned that NHCNAA's recommendations expressed from previous meetings were not included in the amendment. **DP** noted that the bill is still in Committee and there hasn't been any movement.
9. **Public Comments**
  - a. **Mike Franklin** expressed gratitude for the work everyone is doing and inquired about the vacancies on the Commission. **KB** responded that interested public members can apply but that the applications are not being processed currently.
  - b. **Rebecca MacKenzie** expressed curiosity as to why there are no federal tribes in NH. Several Commission members noted the hard process, long duration of process, cost and lots of other barriers. **DP** further noted that NH does not have a recognition process or policy.
  - c. **Rick Van de Poll** noted that the federal recognition process was disturbing and expressed encouragement in being proactive in communicating environmentally sensitive site information.
  - d. **Madeleine Wright** (Nulhegan Band of Coosuk Abenaki Nation) inquired how the Commission was going to increase Commission membership and asked about an outstanding application. **KB** responded that it was not being brought before the Commission at this time.
10. **KB adjourned** meeting 4:17PM

**NHCNAA Meeting Adjourned**