

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs
August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes
1-3PM
DNCR Main Conference Room, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301

Members Present:

Anne Jennison, Chair
Denise Pouliot, Vice Chair
Kayla Schweitzer, Secretary
Sheila Charles
Cherie Pernaw
Estlin McLellan
James Edgell Jr.
Carlos Cardona Lebron
Deborah Calabrese
Christine Nih'shaw
Shawn O'Leary
Bridget Herrera (virtual)

Members Absent: Diane Polewarczyk

Public Attendees: Charlie Jennison, Paul Pouliot, Rod Simms, Colleen Dubois

Quorum: Yes

Meeting Proceedings:

1. Anne Jennison called meeting to order at 1:08PM; Denise Pouliot to co-chair and assist Anne with meeting
2. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Reintroduce Shawn O'Leary as the representative of the Dartmouth Native American Program
3. Review and discussion of the draft April 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Sheila Charles motioned to approve the draft April 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes; Christine Nih'shaw seconded
 - i. Vote: unanimous; approved
4. Old Business
 - a. Letters of Support for geographic name change
 - i. Denise Pouliot reads Anne Jennison's letters:
 1. Baker River to Asquamchuake
 2. Mt. Washington to Agicochook
 - ii. Carlos Cardona Lebron motioned to approve letters; Deborah Calabrese
 - iii. Vote:
 1. In favor: Anne Jennison, Carlos Cardona Lebron, Denise Pouliot, Cherie Pernaw, Christine Nih'shaw, James Edgell Jr., Deborah Calabrese, Shawn O'Leary, Bridget Herrera (virtual)
 2. Abstain: Kayla Schweitzer, Estlin McLellan, Sheila Charles

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3. Approved

- b. Update on HB 380
 - c. Update on inviting Governor Sununu to a meeting – status is unchanged
 - d. Cherie Pernaw reported about her representation of NHCNAA at her tribe's powwow and how it went (distributed brochures and bookmarks)
5. New Business
- a. Future meeting date – September 14, 2023
 - b. Jaffrey Interpretative signage project
 - i. NHDOT project; looking for NHCNAA input
 - ii. Anne Jennison, Denise Pouliot and Sheila Charles to represent on behalf of NHCNAA
 - iii. Cherie Pernaw motioned that Anne Jennison, Denise Pouliot and Sheila Charles represent the NHCNAA on the Jaffrey interpretative signage project; Christine Nih'shaw seconded
 - 1. Vote: unanimous; approved
 - c. Draft a request for Governor Sununu to declare November as Native American Heritage Month
 - i. Carlos Cardona Lebron, Denise Pouliot and Bridget Herrera volunteer to work on writing a proclamation on Native American Heritage Month (November)
 - ii. Cherie Pernaw motioned that Carlos Cardona Lebron, Denise Pouliot and Bridget Herrera work on writing a proclamation on Native American Heritage Month for November; Christine Nih'shaw seconded
 - 1. Vote: unanimous; approved
 - d. Discussion on new Commission bill – proposed by Denise Pouliot and her Cowasuck tribe (distributed proposed Commission bill)
 - i. Red language is being removed, blue language is added
 - ii. Has been reviewed by NHDOJ and Ben Wilson, Director of Division of Historical Resources
 - e. Discussion on creating a legislative action committee to work on behalf of NHCNAA to monitor and respond to bills
 - i. NHCNAA is going to appoint a legislative action committee to act as a liaison in representing NHCNAA for the purposes of acting on legislation, resolutions, proclamations and other time sensitive matters as they arise.
 - ii. Christine Nih'shaw motioned to create the legislative action committee as defined; James Edgell Jr. seconded
 - 1. Vote: unanimous; approved
 - iii. Carlos Cardona Lebron, Denise Pouliot and James Edgell Jr. volunteer to be on the legislative action committee
 - iv. Deborah Calabrese motioned that Carlos Cardona Lebron serve as the chair and convener of the legislative action committee; Anne Jennison seconded

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1. Vote: unanimous; approved
- f. Piscataqua powwow is this weekend – August 12-13
- g. Social media discussion
 - i. Cherie Pernaw will assist Anne Jennison with co-managing
- h. Anne Jennison received a letter from a new Mt. Washington Commission
 - i. Anne Jennison will follow up and report back
- i. Denise Pouliot addressed a recent NHPR article written about her (distributed the Cowasuck Band-Abenaki People's receipt of petition for federal acknowledgement)
 - i. Carlos Cardona Lebron motioned that NHCNAA stand in solidarity with Abenaki Cowasuck band headspeakers Denise and Paul Pouliot against the attacks against them and their heritage as that we know paper genocide is real and we stand against anyone questioning the legitimacy of the heritage of our brothers and sisters; Christine Nih'shaw seconded
 1. Vote: unanimous; approved
6. Public Comments
 - a. Rod Simms
 - b. Paul Pouliot
7. Anne Jennison adjourned meeting 3:11PM

NHCNAA Meeting Adjourned