

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs
September 14, 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
Cherie Pernaw
Estlin McLellan
James Edgell Jr.
Carlos Cardona Lebron
Christine Nih'shaw
Shawn O'Leary
Bridget Herrera (virtual)

Members Absent: Diane Polewarczyk, Deborah Calabrese, Sheila Charles

Public Attendees: Charlie Jennison, Paul Pouliot, Richard Widhu, Sarah Widhu, Nancy Marashio, Mark Chaffee

Quorum: Yes

Meeting Proceedings:

1. Anne Jennison called meeting to order at 1:42PM
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Meeting minutes review and discussion
 - a. Review and discussion of the draft August 10, 2023 meeting minutes
 - i. Christine Nih'shaw motioned to approve the draft August 10, 2023 meeting minutes; Christine Pernaw seconded
 - ii. Vote: unanimous; approved
 - b. Review and discussion of the draft September 9, 2023 legislative action committee meeting minutes
 - i. Denise Pouliot motioned to approve the draft September 9, 2023 legislative action committee meeting minutes; James Edgell Jr. seconded
 - ii. Vote: unanimous; approved
4. Future meetings
 - a. November 16, 2023 full Commission meeting at DNCR
 - b. Legislative action committee meeting – Monday, September 18 9am at DNCR
5. Legislative action committee meeting update
 - a. Discussion on updated Commission bill
 - b. Explanation on the process of bills in the NH legislature
 - c. Discussion on sponsors
 - d. Accept the updated Commission bill as discussed

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- i. Carlos Cardona Lebron motioned to accept the updated Commission bill as discussed; Christine Nih'shaw seconded
 1. In favor: Carlos Cardona Lebron, Denise Pouliot, Christine Nih'shaw, James Edgell Jr., Shawn O'Leary, Anne Jennison, Cherie Pernaw, Bridget Herrera (virtual)
 2. Recusal: Kayla Schweitzer, Estlin McLellan
 3. Approved
6. Proclamation discussion
- a. Legislative action committee to review the 2022 Abenaki Heritage Month Proclamation and provide appropriate revisions to make it inclusive for all Indigenous peoples in NH
 - i. Anne Jennison motioned that the legislative action committee to review the 2022 Abenaki Heritage Month Proclamation and provide appropriate revisions to make it inclusive for all Indigenous peoples in NH; Shawn O'Leary seconded
 1. In favor: Carlos Cardona Lebron, Denise Pouliot, Christine Nih'shaw, James Edgell Jr., Shawn O'Leary, Anne Jennison, Cherie Pernaw, Bridget Herrera (virtual)
 2. Recusal: Kayla Schweitzer, Estlin McLellan
 3. Approved
7. Email inquiries the Commission received:
- a. Kali Foley – adoption and benefits inquiry
 - b. Melina Hill Walker – environmental justice convening planning inquiry
 - c. Hannah Curtin – request for Indigenous perspective on a research paper
 - d. Shelby Holtnik - looking for connection to NH Indigenous advocacy groups
 - i. Cherie Pernaw motioned that Denise Pouliot serve as liaison and respond to Shelby's inquiry; Christine Nih'shaw seconded
 - ii. Vote: unanimous; approved
8. Public Comments
- a. Paul Pouliot
9. Anne Jennison adjourned meeting 2:47pm

NHCNAA Meeting Adjourned