

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs

(RSA- 12-A:14-a)

2018 Annual Report



Submitted to

His Excellency, Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

The Honorable Stephen Shurtleff
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Donna Soucy
President of the Senate

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Michael York
State Librarian for the New Hampshire State Library

Prepared by Kathleen Blake, Chair, NHCNAA



New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs

The NH Commission on Native American Affairs (NHCNAA) was founded in 2010 to recognize the historic and cultural contributions of Native Americans throughout the state, to strengthen and promote NH Native peoples' heritage and to represent Native American interests through state policy and programming. The Commission is composed of 15 members including 4 state appointed positions and 11 members appointed by the Governor from the Native American communities throughout the state. The NHCNAA is mandated by New Hampshire [RSA 12-A:14-a](#).

Commission on Native American Affairs
New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
19 Pillsbury Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
USA

https://www.dncr.nh.gov/commission_on_native_american_affairs/

nhcnativeamericanaffairs@gmail.com

COMMISSION MEMBERS (As of 12/31/2018)

1. Kathleen Blake, Chair (November 22, 2021)
2. Shawn O’Leary, Vice Chair (appointed by the Director of the Dartmouth Native American Program)
3. Kris Neilsen, Treasurer (appointed by NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development))
4. Kayla Schweitzer, Secretary (appointed by the director of the NH State Council on the Arts)
5. Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (November 20, 2020)
6. Sheila Charles (appointed by the director of the NH Division of Historical Resources)
7. Daniel Howard (February 21, 2021)
8. Denise Pouliot (February 21, 2021)
9. Madeleine Wright (February 21, 2021)
10. Garrett Chapman (June 20, 2021)
11. Peter Kenney (June 20, 2021)
12. Vacant
13. Vacant
14. Vacant
15. Vacant

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Arts and Crafts: Madeleine Wright
Education: Denise Pouliot
Nominations: Kris Neilsen
Protection and Preservation: Denise Pouliot
Social Services: Shawn O’Leary

LIST OF MEETINGS FOR 2018

Date: January 16, 2018

Time: 10-11 a.m. NHCNAA meeting, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Joint meeting between NHCNAA and VCNAA

Location: The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Date: April 24, 2018

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: NH Department of Transportation, 7 Hazen Drive Concord, NH

Date: July 24, 2018

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Van McLeod Building, 19 Pillsbury St., Concord, NH 03301

Date: November 7, 2018

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: NH Department of Transportation, 7 Hazen Road, Concord, NH

Link to online meeting minutes:

https://www.dncr.nh.gov/commission_on_native_american_affairs/minutes_reports/

2018 Action Items:

1. Much to our great disappointment, the USPS declined to either cover or remove the offensive mural in the town of Durham post office. This mural has been a source of concern and dismay for many citizens over the years, especially indigenous ones.
2. The NHCNAA supported legislation to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in the state of New Hampshire. This bill was dismissed without ratification.

Committee Reports

Education Committee

1. NHCNAA has set up educational tents at various public events to raise awareness of the commission. This has given us the opportunity to connect with the community and gather information about what is currently taught for indigenous education, and discover the deficiencies within the state.
2. The Lamprey River Association requested a book review of 'Peter Little Bear' prior to a reprinting. The book was not accurate to the time period and actual events that took place in the region. The commission recommended that the book reflect the true history of the area be corrected prior to reprint.
3. The NHCNAA has continued the process of educating legislators about the historical and contemporary indigenous population that resides within the state.
4. A member of the Education Committee is participating in the revision process of New Hampshire Department of Education's Social Studies Standards.
5. NHCNAA began researching what is available for indigenous educational programs within the NH public school system. During this ongoing process we discovered that NH had once developed and used educational 'kits' consisting of artifacts and other educational information that were shared within the public school system. Unfortunately we were unable to locate any of these educational 'kits'.
6. The NHCNAA has begun collaboration with the Indigenous NH Collaborative Collective (INHCC) at the University of New Hampshire. INHCC is a diverse interdisciplinary, interdepartmental program that includes UNH professors, faculty, students, NH Indigenous Tribal Leaders and NH residents with diverse professional backgrounds.
7. The NHCNAA in collaboration with INHCC has agreed to jointly develop a manual about the repatriation process that includes protocol to initiate the Native American Graves and Protection Act (NAGPRA)

Respectfully submitted:

Denise Pouliot
Education Committee Chair

Committee Reports

Arts & Crafts Committee

Captain Christopher Rousseau of the New Hampshire Fire Academy contacted the Commission in October to inquire about creating a display for the New Hampshire Fire Academy. The Academy is visited by numerous New Hampshire schools and citizens. The Arts and Crafts Committee is collaborating with the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum to create a Native American display for the New Hampshire Fire Academy in Concord. Our first meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2019 at the Fire Academy. This will be an ongoing and current action item for 2019.

Respectfully submitted:

Madeleine Wright

Arts & Crafts Committee Chair

Committee Reports

Protection & Preservation Committee

1. NHCNAA contacted NH State Archaeologist Dr. Richard Boisvert (now retired) regarding providing input on Native American human remains, grave goods, and sacred sites in New Hampshire. The commission agreed to work with the Native American community and the Division of Historical Resources to generate recommendations for responding to these concerns. This project is ongoing and current.
2. The NHCNAA was contacted by State Archaeologist Dr. Richard Boisvert about a request to ensure that all Native American human remains and grave goods that had long been held in state custody are repatriated. The NHCNAA unanimously supported the repatriation request. Boisvert provided information on the status of the former and current Native American remains in the State Archaeological Laboratory. Steps are being undertaken to complete the repatriation actions with the assistance of current NH State Archaeologist Mark Doperalski.
3. It was discovered that one of the Northern New Hampshire sites provided for repatriation purposes was identified on Google maps. Due to the history of looting and desecration that has historically occurred with Native American burial sites, our concern was shared with Dr. Boisvert. Dr. Boisvert contacted Google requesting that this site detail identifying the location as a Native American Reburial Ground be removed from its maps. Google complied with this request and the identification is no longer on their website.
4. The NHCNAA received a correspondence from a Franklin Pierce Student stating that unreported Native American remains and grave goods were knowingly in possession at Franklin Pierce College in the Copeland Collection. This information was also forwarded to the NH Division of Historical Resources and to Dr. Richard Boisvert. We received an inventory completed by a Franklin Pierce student that disclosed and documented grave goods and Native American remains in the Copeland Collection. Franklin Pierce was given the Copeland Collection in the 1970's, yet has never officially "received it," so there is an unresolved question regarding ownership. After consultation with NAGPRA representative David Tarler in Washington, D.C., this commission sent a letter to Dr. Jennie Brown, interim dean at Franklin Pierce University to request that a determination be made as to ownership of the Copeland Collection. To date, Dr. Brown has not responded. This commission will continue to work on this issue.
5. A bridge replacement and rehabilitation project at Weirs Beach in Laconia on US Route 3 over the Scenic Railroad proposed a 30 day temporary easement for an emergency access road to avoid an extended detour during construction. The temporary easement would extend within the Weirs Aquadocton archaeological site, listed on the National Register of Historic

Places. The NHCNAA expressed concern about this proposed easement as this area has not undergone an archaeological survey. The NH Department of Transportation has included commitments, which will ensure there will be no ground excavation, geotextile and gravel will be laid, and existing travel ways will be used to avoid impacting the archaeologically sensitive area. NHCNAA also made a request that barrier fencing would avoid ground disturbance. To that end, the contractor will use temporary chain link fencing with posts supported on bases rather than driven into the ground. We remain highly concerned about the preservation of this recognized and National Register listed archaeological site, referred to as “one of the most important in the whole of New England” (Moorehead 1931).

Respectfully submitted:

Preservation & Protection Committee