

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs

September 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mt Kearsarge Indian Museum, Warner, NH

Members Present

Liz Charlebois **(LC)**, Chair
Darryl Peasley **(DP)**, Vice Chair
Bronwynn Asplund- Walsh **(BAW)**
Georgia Edwards **(GE)**
Al Gauvin **(AG)**
Bob Goodbody **(BG)**
Julianne Morse **(JM)**, Secretary
Peter Newell **(PN)**
Kent Whitman **(KW)**

Members Absent

Melanie Benson Taylor
Vicki Blanchard **(VB)**, Treasurer
Steve Daigle **(SD)**
Peggy Fullerton

Public Attendees

Lynn Clark, Director, Mt Kearsarge Indian Museum
3 representatives from Grace River Church in Claremont, NH

Quorum: Yes

Proceedings:

- **LC** called the meeting to order 2:06pm
- **LC** called for a vote to accept the nomination of **JM** for Secretary to fill the position vacated by **SD**. Discussion: none, Vote: unanimous
- **KW** motion to accept minutes from July; **BAW** seconded
Discussion: none, Vote: unanimous

Treasurers report: **VB** absent, no report

Committee Reports:

Preservation and Protection: **BG**, Chair: No formal meetings but ongoing advising for a few projects. NHCNAA has advised Ben Wilson on the language for the Hannah Dustin Signs; advised Department of Historical Resources on questions of repatriation; there is interest in forming a standardized response to all repatriation questions in order to provide a timely response with contact information for key

responsible parties; **LC** would like to set up a winter meeting with Historical Resources to discuss a standardized action plan for future occurrences of repatriation questions.

Arts & Crafts Committee: **DP**, chair: no formal meetings; committee interested in having Commission representation at the Mt Kearsarge Indian Museum Harvest Festival in October 2014 with a NHCNAA table to share information about the commission.

Nomination committee: **KW**, chair: Committee is looking to fill two vacancies on the commission. The position represented by the Society of Genealogists has been vacant since January 2014 and the Nomination committee has not heard from the Society of Genealogists on the status of a replacement. The position represented by an appointee of Travel and Tourism has been vacant since July 2014, and no replacement has been appointed.

Education Committee: no representative

- **General Committee Standard Practices:** **LC** will be sending out an email about standard practices in resigning from a position and responsibilities; clarification of officer positions; clarification of committee requirements; and processes in place to make sure officer and committee chair positions are adequately staffed.

Commission Sunset Committee: **LC** met with Senator Watters would like to sponsor the Bill to have the NHCNAA remain active and not sunset. He is very supportive and would like to submit the bill soon after elections. Commission members should write to their representatives asking them to support the bill.

Discussion:

GE asked if in the new legislation the NHCNAA have to remain administratively attached to the Department of Cultural Resources?

LC: it is not likely that the administrative structure of the Commission would change or be removed from the Department of Cultural Resources as that seems to be the best fit for the Commission to date. There are other changes to the legislation the Commission will be advocating for.

GE: Would like to see the commission develop more educational resources on social services for Native Americans.

LC: The commission has been successful thus far in adding links to the Department of Health and Human Services website, and there are links on the NH Folklife website.

Public Presentation

- **LC** invited guests from Grace River Church of Claremont to present.

Members of the church brought an honorary gift to Chief Gauvin as a token of respect for him and for native peoples in NH. Representatives from Grace River Church of Claremont shared that it had been believed that one of the last remaining Abenaki chiefs in NH was murdered in Claremont. The remains of Chief Toussa were discovered buried at a private residence in 1854. The Grace River Church would like to invite Chief Gauvin to Claremont to honor him and ask for forgiveness. The event was scheduled to take place on October 22, 2014

LC thanked the members of the church for their invitation and encouraged them to reach out to other Native peoples in the Claremont area to attend the event, and that the Commission could be of assistance in identifying those people.

Commission Business:

Working Session on HB 1610-FN

During her meeting with Senator Watters, **LC** expressed interest in changing the language to present tense, removing the sunset date, and the mandated appointment of 5 non-native members. Senator Watters encouraged the Commission to keep the sunset date in place as an internal measure to make sure the commission is meeting and being effective. **LC** suggested to senator Watters that the travel and tourism position be replaced with a member from the Native community as there is not a strong tourist base in NH for Native American cultural activities and the representation of Travel and Tourism on the Commission does not closely fit with the goals or mission of the Commission. There was some discussion on also eliminating the position filled by a representative from Dartmouth College as they have not been actively present at many commission meetings. **LC** sees the benefit of keeping the Dartmouth position on the commission in that they do bring in native peoples from outside the state to advise on cultural activities. **PN** suggested that maybe Dartmouth is looking for more initiative on behalf of the commission to be a leading organization and that perhaps a future commission meeting could be held in Hanover to encourage a representative from the College to attend. There was discussion on whether or not that designated position should be opened up to accept nominations from representatives at any NH college or University. Members felt that Dartmouth has been actively involved in supporting Native cultural traditions and that they should remain the designee, but the commission could actively reach out to the other NH universities who have Native studies programs. **GE** asked if it would be appropriate to have a specific designee form either the Laconia Indian historical Association or the Intertribal Council, but the commission agreed that those groups are already represented by current members on the commission, and that they didn't want to constrict too many positions as being specific designees in case there is trouble filling the positions in the future **PN** reported that the nomination committee has several candidates whose qualifications meet the commissions needs when vacancies arise. **LC** reminded everyone that it would not be good to request representation by a singular tribal group such as the Abenaki. Senator Watters suggested that we find co-sponsors. **BAW** suggested names of potential supporters.

Recommended Changes to HB 1610-FN:

- II addresses all of the representatives from the committees.
- Add the word art under II
- (F)- add that the nominations should go to the nomination committee and then to the director of historical resources
- III- change language to include only a vacancy of 1 year between appointments.
- III take out initial appointments by the governor shall be staggered terms of one 2 or 3 years.
- V- delete everything until "members of the commission- Officers shall be elected for a one-year term ..."

- VI b add artifacts REMAINS and burial grounds. Delete everything after NAGPRA as not all groups we work with are bound by NAGPRA.
- VI a add to the end of a- and make recommendations as appropriate.
- VII change from 4-6
- IX start with “the commission shall..”
- I section II July 2020

Schedule Next meeting:

- **LC** call to schedule next meeting: 2-4pm on November 18, 2014.

Further Discussion not on Agenda:

- **PN:** asked as a representative of Intertribal council that it would be good to have the commission have a table at different powwows. **PN** said he could create a list of powwows and to sign up representatives. **LC** said it would be good to create a brochure about the commission.

Committee Assignments

- All committee membership was reviewed and commission members had the opportunity to sign up for new committee work. Committee membership includes:

Nomination Committee

KW-Whit (Chair)

PN- Peter

BAW- Bronwyn

Arts and Crafts

DP-Darryl (Chair)

JM- Julianne

Social Services & Resources

PN- Pete (chair)

DP-Darryl

VB-Vikki

Education

GE-Georgia (chair)

SD- Steve

JM-Julianne

Protection and Preservation

PF-Peggy (chair)

BG-Bob

AG-AI

Sunset Committee

LC- Liz (Chair)

SD-Steve

BAW-Bronwyn

KW-Whit

Meeting Adjourned:

- **GE** called for a motion to adjourn at 3:38pm; **BAW** second; Discussion: none; Vote: unanimous

Future Action Items:

- **Preservation and Protection:** forming a standardized response to all repatriation questions in order to provide a timely response with contact information for key responsible parties; set up meeting with Department of Historical Resources
- **Arts & Crafts Committee:** work with **PN** to develop list of Powwows to have NHCNAA representation at
- Assign someone to begin work on NHCNAA informational brochure
- **Nominations:** continue to ask Society of Genealogists and NH Department of Travel and Tourism for a designee to the commission
- **LC** will be developing a handout on standard practices in resigning from a position and responsibilities; clarification of officer positions; clarification of committee requirements; and processes in place to make sure officer and committee chair positions are adequately staffed.
- Send Senator Watters proposed changes to HB 1610-FN
- Set up meeting with Senator Watters to identify timeline for renewing HB1610-FN
- Reach out to Melanie Benson Taylor from Dartmouth College to make sure she is aware of the next meeting
- Work with Melanie Benson Taylor to find out if Dartmouth would like to host a future NHCNAA meeting.