

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs (NHCNAA)

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2015 2:00pm

Mt Kearsarge Indian Museum, Warner, NH

Members Present

Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (**BAW**)

Melanie Benson Taylor (**MB**)(present via conference call)

Liz Charlebois (**LC**), Chair

Al Gauvin (**AG**)

Robert Goodby (**RG**)

Julianne Morse (**JM**), Secretary

Kent Whitman (**KW**)

Members Absent

Vicki Blanchard (**VB**), Treasurer

Darryl Peasley (**DP**), Vice Chair

Georgia Edwards (**GE**)

Peter Newell (**PN**)

Quorum: Yes

Proceedings:

- I. 2:00pm- LC, chair called the meeting to order**
- II. Approve minutes from 9/16/2014**
 - a. **BAW** moved **KW** seconded
 - b. **Vote:** unanimously approved
- III. Approve minutes from 1/20/15**
 - a. **BAW** moved, **RG** asked for spelling to be corrected on both his and **BAW** names. **BAW** moved as amended, **RG** seconded
 - b. **Vote:** unanimously approved
- IV. LC, chair welcomed Edna Feighner, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) to discuss Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and her position at DHR.**
 - a. **RG** recused himself from the discussion.
 - b. Edna has 15+ years at DHR, assists with review and compliance with federal agencies that request access to increased expansion projects. Some projects are on land that has not had archeological surveys. Army Corps has reduced area of concern and are not reviewing larger area of impact or the indirect impact of surrounding areas. Example of the PSNH Whipple site there was damage to the site which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. DHR would like NHCNAA assistance in providing recommendations for sites that could potentially have historical significance for native communities. **LC** can reach out to border state tribes for sites that cross state lines. DHR asks companies

regardless of permitting and repercussions to be good stewards and do archeological surveys.

- c. **Action step:** When vetting new commission members, look for candidates that can sit on the Preservation and Protection committee.

Committee Reports

V. Preservation and Protection

- a. **RG**, committee chair, presented preliminary proposal for NHCNAA repatriation consultation process. Presentation was also made at the 1/20/15 meeting, but quorum was not met. NHCNAA does not provide opinions or advice but acts as a conduit for presenting the information to the correct parties. NHCNAA would develop a list of the appropriate leaders for consultation but NHCNAA does not weigh in on discussion.
- b. **JM** motion to accept preliminary proposal, **BAW** seconded; Discussion: **RG:** It would be good to clarify our goals from our mandate which is to aid DHR. **LC** to approach descendent groups.
- c. **Vote:** unanimously approved

VI. Nominations

- a. **KW**, committee chair, presented report on commission member nomination process. There are currently 2 public vacancies. The commission should be actively recruiting new members to find recruits that will fill vacant spots on committees as well. Meredith Lewko will be asking for additional letters of support in response to NHCNAA request for her to do so. 4 additional vacancies will occur in November. NHCNAA would like to encourage **MB** to reach out to other native people in the Upper Valley area and to invite students to attend commission meetings to understand our role. Ideally the committee would like to present the chair and the full commission with options of who would be the best fit for the commission. Questions and discussion included: Should we have a marketing committee? Should we develop an applicant packet with a single page of information about applying? What should our advertising plan be? Can we post this anywhere on our web page?
- b. **Action steps:** **JM** and **KW** to develop 1 page handout on applying to be on the commission; **LC** and **JM** to develop contact list for current commission members
- c. **Carrie Gendreau** has applied to be on the commission and all support materials were sent to NHCNAA member prior to the meeting and discussed at the 1/20/15 commission meeting.
 - Approve Carrie Gendreau's nomination to be sent to the Director of the Department of Historical Resources
 - **BAW** moved, **LC** seconded
 - **Vote:** unanimously approved

VII. Arts & Crafts

- a. No report

VIII. Education

- a. No report
- b. **MB** to join education committee

IX. Sunset

- a. **LC** provided an update on HB1610 renewal: SB 48. The Senate Committee will be voting in the next week. **LC** to review when the next NHCNAA annual report will be due so we can be in compliance. NHCNAA commission members should reach out to state legislators in support of the commission.
- X. Social Services**
- a. No report
- XI. Treasurers Report**
- a. No report
- XII. Durham Post Office Mural**
- a. **LC** reported that community members have contacted NHCNAA about the racist nature of the mural which reads, Cruel Adversity underneath a picture of an implied Native American.
 - b. **Action Steps:** NHCNAA should check into the historic nature of the mural. Who owns the mural? After gathering more information NHCNAA could draft a position statement. **BAW** could present a letter of opinion to State Senators Sheehan, Ayotte and District 1 State Representative Guinta. **MB** shared that the Hovey murals are used as an educational tool at Dartmouth but are not on public display.
- XIII. Committee Expectations**
- a. **LC** opened discussion for review of committee expectations. Each commission member should sit on at least one committee in addition to attending full commission meetings. At least one meeting by phone in between general meetings. Committees should be submitting written reports.
 - b. **Action steps:** Committee chairs should reach out to non-commission members for joining committees and filling out committees. This can be a potential recruitment tool for qualified commission members.
- XIV. Goals for 2015**
- a. **LC** opened discussion for review of 2015 commission goals: stable membership, active participation, developing a brochure about NHCNAA for powwows, compiling and submitting an annual report, vote on officers for 2016, develop native artists promotion, establish policy in providing consultation to DHR, have a more public face, greater facebook presence.
 - **LC** was on NHPR's the Exchange, **LC** was nominated and awarded a NH Humanities Council's NH 40 over 40 recognition, interviewed in 2014 by the National Museum of the American Indian.
- XI. Adjourn**
- a. **BAW** motioned **JM** seconded, meeting adjourned

Summary of Action Steps:

- When vetting new commission members, look for candidates that can sit on the Preservation and Protection committee.
- **LC** Follow up with Edna Feighner, DHR, on any next steps needed for consultation on section 106 of National Historical Preservation Act.
- **JM** and **KW** to develop 1 page handout on applying to be on the commission; **LC** and **JM** to develop contact list for current commission members.
- NHCNAA should check into the historic nature of the mural. Who owns the mural? After gathering more information NHCNAA could draft a position statement. **BAW** could present a letter of opinion to State Senators Sheehan, Ayotte and District 1 State Representative Guinta. **MB** shared that the Hovey murals are used as an educational tool at Dartmouth but are not on public display.
- Committee chairs should reach out to non-commission members for joining committees and filling out committees. This can be a potential recruitment tool for qualified commission members.