

**New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs
May 19, 2015 2:00pm Meeting Minutes**

**Paganucci Room of the Class of 1953 Commons
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH**

Members Present

Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (**BAW**)

Melanie Benson Taylor (**MBT**)

Liz Charlebois (**LC**), Chair

Al Gauvin (**AG**)

Julianne Morse (**JM**), Secretary

Kent Whitman (**KW**)

Members Absent

Vicki Blanchard (**VB**), Treasurer

Darryl Peasley (**DP**)

Georgia Edwards (**GE**)

Peter Newell (**PN**), Vice Chair

Robert Goodby (**RG**)

Quorum: No

Proceedings:

- I. **LC** Call meeting to order at 2:10 pm
Quorum not present; all voting items tabled until next meeting 7/21/15

- II. **LC** Welcome from Chair and introduce meeting host, **MBT**
 - a) Welcome from meeting host **MBT**
 - b) Guided visit to Dartmouth's Hovey Murals led by Katherine Hart, Associate Director and Curator of Academic Programming at the Hood Museum of Art. Overview of the history and creation of the murals and their historic significance as a piece of public art done in response to other public art murals, the Orozco murals, The Epic of American Civilization located in the Dartmouth Library. Hart provided a historical overview of the College's interest in the preservation of the murals as historically significant works of art but also their decision not to destroy but rather to restrict public access to the murals to only guided educational tours based on their harmful and insensitive depiction of Native American populations of New Hampshire. The murals are currently used as a teaching tool.

- III. **Guest Presentation by John Moody**
 - a. Dartmouth College's relationship with Abenaki peoples
- II. **Review and approval of minutes from 3/17/15**
 - a. tabled until next meeting
- III. **Treasurers Report**
 - a. no report; \$1,149.00 as of January 2015
- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Nominations, KW**
 - a. **KW** provided a welcome and congratulations to new commission member: **CG** who will serve her first term through 11/22/2017
 - b. **VB** and **AG** have renewed their commitment to a second term and will serve through 11/22/2017
 - c. New applicants: Melanie Lewko has withdrawn her application to be part of the Commission.
 - d. Application process
 - a. Committee will continue to pursue replacements for vacant positions from the Department of Travel and Tourism, and the state genealogist, which can now be filled (after the renewal of HB1610) by a representative from the Native community. Still actively looking for new commission members.
 - b. **Action item:** The application draft language will have to change when the new authorizing bill goes into effect which will no longer include a mandated position from the state genealogist.
 - b. **Preservation and Protection, RG**
 - a. **RG**, our recommendations regarding consulting with the Department of Historical Resources (DHR) regarding instances of repatriation, conflict with a current DHR state policy, and will need to be rewritten.
 - c. **Arts & Crafts, DP**
 - a. no committee meetings, no updates
 - d. **Education, GE**
 - a. no committee meetings, no updates
 - e. **Social Services**
 - a. no committee meetings, no updates
 - f. **Sunset Committee, LC**
 - a. The House committee passed the recommended version of HB1610 on May 8th and was signed by Governor Hassan, declaring the Commission effective till July 6th 2015. **LC** to confirm.
Action step: **CG** to draft a press release about the Commission renewal.
- V. **Durham Post Office Mural**
 - a. Revisit action steps from 3/17/15: (**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.)

- b. **BAW** to speak with US post master in Durham to find out who owns the mural.
 - c. Schedule a commission visit to the Durham murals before we develop a position statement.
 - d. **LC** to ask John Moody to help research the history of Murals.
 - e. **MBT** provided that the murals were commissioned by the Durham Women's Society in 1959, and painted by Bernard Chapman who was from Lebanon, NH. Chapman also painted the logo and sign for Mascoma Savings Bank Logo which was very historically accurate.
- VI. Other new business? News? Events? Resources?**
- a. Revisit action steps from 3/17/15
 - b. Look into setting up a state Commission email address.
 - c. **CG** to look up past press releases
 - d. **JM** to double check with Shelly Angers to make sure all past minutes are about adding all past minutes to the website.
 - e. **LC** to start yearly committee reports, and check on when next annual report is due.
 - f. July 21 meeting will be a good time to sign up for new committee assignments.
- VII. 2015 Meeting schedule:**
- e. September 15
 - f. November 17
- XI. LC Adjourned the meeting at 3:57pm**

Summary of Action Steps 3/17/2015:

- 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.

Summary of Action Steps 5/19/2015:

- Committee will continue to pursue replacements for vacant positions from the Department of Travel and Tourism, and positions from the Native community.
- The application/nomination draft language will have to change when the new authorizing bill goes into effect which will no longer include a mandated position from the state genealogist.
- All committees should be holding regular meetings in accordance with committee expectations
- **RG** to work on updating recommendation for Commission consultation with DHR regarding instances of repatriation.
- **LC** to confirm details of Commission 2020 extension
- **CG** to draft a press release about the Commission renewal.
- **LC** to start yearly committee reports, and check on when next annual report is due.
- **JM** to ensure all past meeting minutes are up on the Commission webpage.
- Continue research on Durham Post Office mural ownership.
- Schedule a commission visit to the Durham murals before we develop a position statement.
- **LC** to ask John Moody to help research the history of the Durham Post Office Murals.