



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, August 28, 2023	TIME PLACE	6pm CDT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Scott B Goode	Present later - Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present - Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Present - Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present	Earlyne Gentry	Present
Diana Baker	Present - Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present - Zoom
Yvonne Perryman-Matthews	Present	Others Present	Maxine Braford, Cynthia Whitetree Rios, Sherrie Johnson, Dennis Sisco

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:01pm	<p>Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee meeting.</p>	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – August 14, 2023 minutes spoken to, no corrections or amendments to the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>08/24/2023</u> the minutes of <u>08/14/2023</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>08/31/2023</u> .</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attest: <u><i>Natalie Dixon</i></u> Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Roll Call ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – AUG 14 2023 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – SEPT 11, 2023 @ 6PM 	Natalie
--	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Election Committee – Discussion between Committees • Questions of Secretary – posed by Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Balance left of Town Hall funds ○ Community Feedback ○ Grievance Committee meeting • Newsletter Content • Nov 4th Town Hall Protocol + Discussion • Any Other Business 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>Discussion with Election Committee present – Sherrie Johnson, Chair, Maxine Bradbury, Vice Chair, Cynthia Whitetree Rios, Secretary – Darrel Armstrong, Alternate not present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All first-time Election Committee members, given Ordinance and on the ground training when available from Dennis Sisco, currently no regular meetings of Election Committee • Electronic voting has not been discussed by Election Committee • 3rd Party Administrator for voting established in ordinance • Having Election Committee officers present at ballot count – Inter-Committee discussion and agreement • All 3 present Election Committee members appointed by Business Committee, last year's election was their first election with a brand-new Election Ordinance, during this election they did run into questions that were resolved with the help of the administration regarding the Qualifications of Officers as written in our Constitution (Article II By-Laws) • Election Committee and Constitution Committee agree that Election Committee members need to be elected by General Council • Further discussion on enrollment info matching candidate info submitted to Election Committee • Discussion of the role of Enrollment Officer in Election Ordinance 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things to strengthen Election Committee – more involvement and discussion 	
6:20pm	Scott arrives	
	<p>Election Committee discussion continues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More involvement also looks like experienced members to speak to procedure, more outlines on duties • Discussion over # of people on a Standing Committee – Election Committee currently has 3 with an alternate but could feature 5 total to keep in-line with set quorum numbers • Staggered terms for Election Committee members (but also all Committees) allow for experienced members to train new members for 2 or more years before an election cycle • Only current Constitution Committee agreement as to the Election Committee includes the provisions of them being 1. elected by General Council and 2. Independent of the Business Committee • Current procedure – Business Committee runs elections in essence, they choose the 3rd Party Administrator, pay for it, pass the Election Ordinance which defines Election Committee wholly – it is not otherwise mentioned in the Constitution • Only current duties of Election Committee include (with Nation's administrative aid in some instances) – intake of payment from candidates, confirming the Qualifications of Officers, certifying election results, otherwise there is no significant powers designated to the Election Committee, they convene only during election season • Discussion over previous and current history – Enrollment Committee presence in Election Ordinance, Enrollment Officer presence in Election Ordinance • Rule of law in Qualification of Officers (Article II By-Laws) and the role of sanctioning by resolution as unconstitutional when its allowance is not specifically carved out in the aforementioned Article as a disqualification • Discussion over Qualifications – examples given such as sanctions, no recent felony convictions, background checks possible, as well as for specific offices eg. Treasurer cannot have previous convictions for monetary crimes 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election Ordinance Page 8 Section 4 Nation Support Staff outlines Election Committee duties • Need established by Constitution Committee for all Standing Committees to have a hand in creation and approval of their own Ordinances • Issues at the crossroads of absentee balloting logistics and General Council Annual Meeting elections with resolutions from the floor, important to Constitution Committee to find a good medium that allows for participation of all tribal members in General Council as Article IV and still gives power to the floor at the General Council Annual Meeting in Article VIII • Election Committee should have complete access to General Council resolutions, open records policy possible • Discussion over administration of elections, need continues for 3rd Party Administrator and in the future the Nation may return to doing our own elections but that is not possible in the current climate, future is TBD • Discussion over the limitation of political sanctioning as done by General Council only, there is a need for due process within that but there should not be an ability for the Business Committee to politically sanction individuals • Discussion over Standing Committee-related topic of Enrollment Officer being listed as a Secretary-Treasurer for Enrollment Committee • Specific language needed for Enrollment Committee to provide regularly updated list of all eligible voting members within specified amount of time, both monthly and quarterly were suggested, data privacy for political use • Agreement among Committees that fees for office should go to Election Committee budget and not Tribe's General Operations Fund as given in the current Election Ordinance • No need for alternate positions within 5 member Committees, applicable to most if not all our Committees 	
7:25pm	Committee break, Election Committee parts ways	
7:37pm	Committee returns, sans Election Committee members	
	<p>Discussion over Standing Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievance Committee willing to meet per Earlyne, they will meet us at our September 11 @ 6pm meeting • Earlyne will also message for Claims Committee to meet • Discussion over work timelines prior to next Town Hall • Scott explains his discussions with BC, Constitution Committee business is given in passing, very high-level 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion over protocol and elections next year in context of Election Committee testimony to Constitution Committee • Earlyne contacted Claims Committee – asked for September 25 @ 6pm • Discussion over technology and its limitations in our tribal governance and elections – absentee balloting, virtual and/or electronic voting • Discussion over General Council in Article IV vs General Council Annual Meeting in Article VIII and access to voting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolutions from the floor vs referendum on ballots discussed – need for elections, Petitions, and Ordinances need the chance to be voted on by all tribal citizens while still having resolutions done from the floor, but there must be a balance struck for at-large representation in major decisions but also power to the floor at the General Council Annual Meeting • At large representation still needed – further discussion on representative forms of government such as districting, the lack thereof currently in place and how that interacts with the idea of an at-large representative when there is not already a representative-style government in place 	
	<p>Questions of Secretary – posed by Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown amount remaining of \$1000.00* • Community Feedback continues to be overall positive, continual input in survey, full review and accounting for all input since July 31, 2023 to be given at Sept 11, 2023 meeting after Grievance Committee parts ways • Earlyne confirms to group that Grievance Committee will be present at September 11, 2023 meeting <p><i>*Secretary Post-Addendum: Spoke with Dennis Sisco after 8/28 meeting ended, receipts from administration purchasing supplies have not made it through Accounting yet. Leftover supplies currently rest in Secretary's possession for future Town Halls.</i></p>	
	<p>Review of Newsletter blurb as written by Secretary – following light discussion prior to Sept 1 deadline given by Joanna Hadley, summary of Town Hall discussions reviewed by Committee and made for inclusion in upcoming newsletter</p>	
	<p>Tax Commission discussion</p>	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceeds as a source of funding discussed at August 5th Town Hall – need identified to speak with them regarding their work and its intersection with our Constitution 	
	<p>Town Hall protocol discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion should be focused on the key issues + big picture ideas being put together Mention meeting with different Committees, the insight(s) it's been giving us as to our Tribal Government functioning Propositions for recommendations to be presented to Town Hall, receive community input moving forward 	
	<p>Confirmation for next meeting September 11th 2023 @ 6pm, Grievance Committee will be on the agenda first thing.</p>	Carrie
9:03pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	