



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, September 11, 2023	TIME PLACE	6pm CDT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Scott B Goode	Present - Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present - Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Not Present
Natalie Dixon	Present	Earlyne Gentry	Present
Diana Baker	Present – Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present - Zoom
Yvonne Perryman- Matthews	Present	Others Present	Dennis Sisco - Zoom Vincent Blile Rebecca DePriest Lydia Davis

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:05pm	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee meeting.	
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – August 28, 2023 minutes spoken to, no amendments to the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">On <u>09/11/2023</u> the minutes of <u>08/28/2023</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>09/14/2023</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Attest: <u>Natalie Dixon</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">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 28 2023 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – SEPT 25 2023 iv. 95 responses total so far on survey 	Natalie
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Minutes Begin		
6:10pm	Rebecca DePriest & Lydia Davis, members of the Grievance Committee, enter meeting room following Housekeeping	
	<p>Grievance Committee discussion begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievance Committee members present agree that their mention is brief, to the point, in the Constitution • During their terms # of Grievances filed has been 4 – 1 was withdrawn and the other 3 stopped when the BC member to whom they were against was not re-elected – no Grievances during present Grievance Committee members’ tenure has resulted in a General Council Special Meeting • There is no standing budget for the Grievance Committee, they do not have access except through the Business Committee for tribal funds to consult with an attorney on tribal work such as Grievances and their investigation • Discussion on removal of officers as only current power of Grievance Committee, other hypothetical powers that could be given, punishments not something for an Ordinance • Grievance Committee agrees that they should be included in Grievance Ordinance creation, Business Committee not included in the process, with final approval of Grievance Ordinance given to General Council • Discussion over separation of powers and current position of Grievance Committee within Constitution (Article VII) • Discussion over budget and need of Grievance Committee for access to an attorney without undue individual hardship 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion in avenues of notification of public for General Council Special Meeting, historical and hypothetical ways • Grievance Committee members report limited access to General Council resolutions by Secretary-Treasurer • Discussion on open records access policy with right to privacy for tribal members, Constitution Committee agrees this is something to be placed under our Bill of Rights • Clarification on motions made during General Council 2023 regarding judiciary/tribunal system • Discussion over sworn-in Committee members • Discussion over Grievance Committee abilities to investigate Committee members and the consequences of their investigations • Discussion over hypothetical punitive actions, there is no current way to sanction political officers under our Constitution • Discussion over the need for Code of Ethics in Constitution • Specific “terms of art” will need their own definition section within the Constitution, eg “official capacity,” “sanction” • Date of official Grievance Ordinance is 2009 – GC Resolution #207-012409 • Currently Grievance Committee has 5 members, elected to their positions, no budget – 5th person elected from the floor during General Council 2023 has not been sworn in yet – other members already sworn-in are Ryan Birdsong (Chair) and Chris Terry – no currently elected Secretary for Committee • Discussion over Constitution Committee agreement on future Grievance Committees operations in no particular order – nepotism clause, funded by the Nation, independent of the Business Committee, accountability of Grievance Committee to General Council, ability to call General Council Special Meeting independent of Chief who calls to order all meetings, Grievances filed by individual citizens against an individual Committee member, Grievances will not be defended against using tribal funds or property, Grievance Committee members filing a Grievance will remove themselves from proceedings relating to their Grievance • Discussion over the suspension of officials under investigation • Both Committees agree that Grievance Committee should be an elected position, not appointed • Discussion over Enrollment Committee as sole un-elected Committee, past Secretary-Treasurer membership 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement of both Committees that all elected Standing Committees should be subject to Grievance Committee and its Ordinance in addition to the Business Committee • Discussion over current Standing Committees in our Constitution, Article VII • Discussion on due process, its current place in Article XII – Bill of Rights, how that could impact future Grievance Committee operations • Current procedure for Grievances is it can be hand-delivered or mailed to the tribal headquarters addressed to the Grievance Committee, or hand-delivered to the Chair which is currently Ryan Birdsong, all ways are valid • Discussion over example need for budget for Grievance Committee, separate PO Box as a possible concern • Not many Grievances have gone the distance in Grievance Committee history, if the Constitution gives more foundation to the Grievance Committee then there may be more finishing Grievances in the future • Current procedure includes parties bringing their evidence separately to the Grievance Committee • Discussion over the investigative possibilities of the Grievance Committee • Discussion over jurisdictional issues related to Grievance Committee and possible subpoenas, the complex relationship between tribal nation and law enforcement interactions post-McGirt • Discussion over the lack of enforcement mechanism in current procedure, other than the \$1000 fine of Article VII of the Grievance Ordinance • Discussion over non-negotiable rights in Constitution vs procedure specifics in Ordinances • Plans made for Grievance Committee to return at another meeting • Constitution Committee agrees to move October 9 meeting (Indigenous People's Day) to October 2 • Grievance Committee agrees to return on October 2, 2023 	
7:46pm	Grievance Committee parts ways	
	Notice of Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 25, 2023 – Carrie and Scott both 	
	Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on Grievance Committee being elected from General Council, distinct from Business Committee, with own budget and counsel, also being subject to Grievances 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion over Enrollment Committee and if it should be fully distinct – limited membership, possible to add Faithkeepers onto membership pool • Confirmation of the Claims Committee meeting on September 25th, Diana has been emailed our questions and will pass them on to the Claims Committee members • Enrollment Committee having Secretary-Treasurers as membership pool is a General Council resolution • Natalie will speak to Accounting regarding paying visiting Committee members who appear before Constitution Committee to discuss their duties • Update on dollars spent out of supplies budget - \$137 total 	
7:57pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	