



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, December 04, 2023	TIME PLACE	6pm CDT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Scott B Goode	Not Present
Carrie Kneeland	Present – Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Present – Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present	Earlyne Gentry	Present
Kristi Birdsong Blansett	Present	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present – Zoom
Yvonne Perryman-Matthews	Present – Zoom	Others Present	N/A

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
5:59pm	<p>Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee meeting.</p>	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – November 20, 2023 minutes read via shared screen and summarized aloud, minor corrections made by the members present on the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>12/04/2023</u> the minutes of <u>11/20/2023</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>12/07/2023</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 – NOV 20 2023 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – DEC 18 2023 	Natalie
	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Secretary's Review • Business Committee Report from Scott • Hospitality Fund Remaining • Newsletter • Social Media Polling • Jo Lynn and Natalie Work on Report • Resolutions and General Council • Meeting with Enrollment Committee • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 12/18/2023 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>Discussion regarding the public meeting of the Business Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had previously discussed coming back to the Business Committee (BC) but questions have not been emailed • Constitution Committee reviews previous questions identified to send to BC • Constitution Committee agrees to table the matter for the time being, more work needs to be done before meeting with BC again 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Business Committee and Scott, update to attendance policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott is not present at this meeting, as liaison to BC he will be the one to update on the Resolution changing the current attendance policy from removal after missing 3 meetings to 3 consecutive meetings subject to removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See minutes from November 2023 meetings for more information including wording of attendance policy • Matter tabled for the time being 	
	<p>Discussion regarding update on Committee budget</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie to email Accounting for update, original email was likely sent to wrong person in tribal administration • Correct staff to be identified on website and emailed this week 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Newsletter draft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft due December 31 • Possible mention of polling that will be posted? 	
	<p>Discussion regarding social media polling questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristi and Earlyne not able to meet due to holiday week, will meet and draft questions this week • Committee reviews Constitutional topics discussed for polling at November 20th 2023 meeting • Discussion regarding tribal member apathy and how that can relate to polling incl. social media • First question could be regarding Qualification of Officers including hypothetical qualifications regarding felonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Point is getting feedback from tribal members ○ If there's no feedback then we shouldn't put so much effort into polling • Discussion regarding the creation of a new Facebook group or page versus using a standing group or page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The optics regarding posting of polls in groups that are not under Constitution Committee control ○ After discussion regarding a group versus page, Committee agrees to create a Facebook group for Constitution Committee matters • Discussion regarding non-tribal member access to a group • Yvonne will create Facebook group for Constitution Committee work; add Committee members as admin and/or moderators • Necessary to draft the rules of operating in the group, especially for hot button topics • Want to encourage stimulating conversations, notification of information regarding Committee work, creating polls to be shared in other tribal member Facebook groups • Kristi and Earlyne to draft poll questions this week together 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Newsletter draft cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie to do Newsletter draft for Dec 18 2023 meeting • For newsletter connection to information and polling access, Facebook group through the QR code 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover other subjects including November Town Hall and the subjects covered, Standing Committee work done, next Town Hall meetings and other work updates 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Jo Lynn and Natalie's work together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is turning into the Initial Advisory Report, has been drafted by Natalie and sent to Jo Lynn • Jo Lynn will have report including Standing Committee recommendations reviewed in time for Jan 1 2024 meeting • Committee confirms Jan 1 2024 meeting as the regular meeting, will be virtual as the Tribal Offices will be closed • Natalie will email Zoom link on day of Jan 1 2024 	
	<p>Discussion regarding General Council references in Resolutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 007-060323 mentioned, text referenced is in bullet point below; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>WHEREAS:</i> The General Council, as the Supreme Governing Body of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation has the power and ability to exercise its authority over the Business Committee. The Business Committee is subordinate to the General Council and cannot override or disregard the General Council and its directives or resolutions. AND ○ Article IV of the Constitution – Membership of the Council, was also read aloud in reference to this resolution • Wording in resolutions not necessarily what will be put in the Constitution, may be better addressed by similar measure such as Tribal Legislation hierarchy as discussed at November 20th 2023 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Necessary to discuss this with all members of Committee present, the two legal professionals on the Committee are key to proper implementation 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Oath of Office and its inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oath needs to be created • Current oath is simple, I, name, do solemnly swear – etc • Angela to review other tribal Oaths and report back 	
	<p>Discussion regarding quorum for Special Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a lower quorum necessary for Grievance Meetings? • How to ensure that Grievance Committee can do their work in the event the 150 quorum is not met • Necessary to poll this topic and get tribal member input 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<p>Clarification regarding word “gatekeeping” used with Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gatekeeping solely in reference to the limited available access to Resolutions, only available through Secretary-Treasurer as part of their duties • Gatekeeping concept comes from learning the difficulty of Grievance & Election Committees in getting Resolutions, obtainable from only 1 elected official per the Constitution 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Standing Committees recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee agrees to review the powers outlined in the Corporate Charter of the Nation and then figure out the separation of those powers between Business and Standing Committees, as well as to General Council • Natalie to send out charter and powers, Committee to review and discuss at December 18 2023 meeting 	
	<p>Discussion regarding future meetings with other Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Enrollment Committee on 12/06/2023 @ 3:30pm – virtual link will be sent via email • Business Committee meeting tabled for the time being 	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Town Hall is Saturday, February 3, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion regarding the meal and getting more tribal members with more food ○ Dinner will cost a fair amount, need an accounting update, finalization will have to wait 1 week ○ Possible menu – beef & hominy, meat gravy, grape dumplings, frybread – cooks have been asked • Agenda items for December 18, 2023 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kristi + Earlyne to have first draft of polling questions ○ Natalie to have Newsletter draft ○ Angela to look at and gather material on Oaths of Office ○ Yvonne to create Facebook group + Town Hall food cost estimate ○ All Committee members to review Corporate Charter powers sent out this week by Natalie • Office meetings – make sure that folks stay together, no one is left alone at night, use only east door and make sure that doors are shut and locked after meeting ends 	
8:14pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	