

Penobscot Nation Constitution Committee

Minutes of November 2, 2016 Meeting

**Participating:** Phillip Attean, Mark Chavaree, Sherrie Mitchell, Henry Sockbeson (via Skype), Jill Tompkins, Charlene Virgilio, Lisa Montgomery

**Absent:** Awendala Dana, June Sapiel, Theodore Mitchell

**Meeting started at 6:15 P.M.**

**Business Discussions**

1. Review and approval of minutes of 10/27/2016
  - o Motion made by Sherrie to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Phillip, and opened for discussion, 5 approved JT, SM, CV, PA, MC, HS approved and 1 abstention from LM.
2. Jill discussed that the RFP will be closed on 12/1/2016. RFPs will be opened December 1 at 10:00 a.m. with a witness, then scanned to the committee for a meeting on December 1 at 3:00 to review the RFP responses.
  - o Sherrie asked whether or not she should recuse herself since she will submit a proposal for the RFP. Per agreement with the committee, Sherrie excused herself while the committee discussed the RFP details.
  - o Jill will issue an RFP amendment to communicate that the amount is not to exceed \$60K. Jill will also call anyone who has already submitted.
  - o Sherrie will continue to recuse herself while this topic is discussed in future meetings until RFP closing.
3. Scott Silverman was selected from a pool of candidates to be an extern for the court. Jill would like to use him for the research on the judiciary portion of the project. Henry suggested he interview others for input from judges, chiefs, elders, council members, etc. for the constitution. Committee needs to develop interview questions to guide discussions. Plan to meet him in January 2017.
  - o Books mentioned by Sherrie to use for this work effort were "[Structuring Sovereignty](#)" and "[American Indian Constitutional Reform](#)". [links to books in blue text]
4. Drop Box discussion
  - o Discussed using Google Drive, Ever Note.
  - o Committee decided to utilize Drop Box (reference files) and Google Docs (constitution draft).
  - o Agreed the contractor will be master author of the document and the committee members will have a comment role.

5. Tribal Webpage

- Sherrie volunteered to lead the effort.
- Will create a unique a web page just for this effort called: “Penobscot Nation Constitution Initiative.”
- Talked about length of time for the project, Charlene volunteered to create straw man timeline for the team to review.
- Want to use a mass mailing for publicity of web page via a listserv.
- Check with Joshua for the ability to create a listserv.

6. Items Discussed for the next meeting Nov. 22, 2016

- Request General Meeting minutes from last constitution discussion.
- Review structure of constitution and decide what will be retained, reworked or added.
- Benchmark timeline.
- Update on webpage.
- Find out when the next tribal mailing so the project can be incorporated or decide to do our own mailing
- Mandatory training, use rules of order, sovereign immunity application, executive section re-vamp, bolster up vice chief and talk to chief.
- Preamble brainstorming as the last agenda item.
- NOTE: ensure to use input from historian and cultural leaders.

7. Motion made by Sherrie to adjourn at 7:45, seconded by Phillip, unanimously approved JT, SM, CV, PA, MC, HS and LM.