



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, December 18, 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	Angela Anglen Kelley	Present – Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present	Earlyne Gentry	Not Present
Kristi Birdsong Blansett	Present – Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present - Zoom
Yvonne Perryman- Matthews	Present	Others Present	N/A

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
~6:04pm	<p>Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee meeting.</p>	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – December 04, 2023 minutes reviewed via shared screen, minor grammar corrections made and reviewed by the Committee on the record – minutes APPROVED via Motion #13, Roberta/Carrie - motion carried unanimously</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>12/18/2023</u> the minutes of <u>12/04/2023</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>12/22/2023</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attest: <u><i>Natalie Dixon</i></u> Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	Natalie

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	<p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Roll Call ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – DEC 04 2023 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – JAN 01 2024 	Natalie
--	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Secretary's Review – Enrollment + set-up changes • Scott's Report from the BC & Changing Attendance Policy • Feb 3rd Town Hall Funding Update & Menu Cost • Possibility of Pawhuska Town Hall • Oath of Office – update from Angela • Draft and Finalize Schedule of Polling Questions • Newsletter Update + Drafting • Initial Advisory Report Draft Update from Natalie and Jo Lynn • Corporate Charter Powers • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 01/01/2024 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>Scott and BC Resolution Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update regarding a Business Committee (BC) Resolution regarding this Committee's attendance policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scott did speak to Charlie who was willing to bring it to the BC ○ See November 2023 meeting minutes for more information on attendance policy • Available Constitution Advisory Committee (CAC) members will meet at the Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024 public Business Committee meeting at 6pm at the AOA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose to request Resolution for change in attendance policy of the CAC ○ Scott to continue to liaison as necessary 	
	<p>Secretary's Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment Committee – discussion regarding the 12/08/2023 meeting, review of the conversation at hand including the following summarized topics & procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enrollment Officer tribal employee responsible for the collection, initial review, organization, first-step 	

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	<p>verification, and follow-up, of enrollment paperwork for tribal membership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enrollment Committee is chaired by Secretary-Treasurer, they are a voting member of the Enrollment Committee, they bring the names of eligible tribal members to the Business Committee and the General Council for approval. ○ Procedure for enrollment is Enrollment Officer brings all application packets to monthly meeting, Committee members review, ask questions, discuss, hold a majority vote on if the criteria is met to be on the roll. Relinquishments are also reviewed and signed off on by the Enrollment Committee. If the Chair is not present the meeting can still proceed. ○ Approved names are taken by Secretary-Treasurer to Business Committee meeting for affirmation of tribal membership via Resolution, then Enrollment Officer send the tribal membership approval letter to the new tribal member. Names that do not meet the criteria for tribal membership are sent a denial letter with an appeals process that goes through the Chief and General Council per Ordinance. ○ Enrollment Committee duties include the verification of application paperwork, maintain and review and authentic listing of all tribal members, ensuring that the tribal roll is accurate. ○ Voter List (the list of General Council membership) is also reviewed by Enrollment Committee before elections. The Enrollment Committee members discussed having the Voter List procedure be independent of Secretary-Treasurer's role as Chair. ○ Membership pool is past Secretary-Treasurers, they did find a need for more input and knowledge from knowledgeable community members, several names were gathered by that then-Enrollment Committee, the names were submitted to General Council and confirmed by a majority vote – Enrollment Committee finds that it is necessary to keep having an “additional 3 to 4 General Council members” on Enrollment Committee. ○ Enrollment is a unique Committee that cannot compare to other tribal government Committees. ○ Enrollment Committee members individually argued for & against DNA/genetic testing as proof of parental descent for tribal membership. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Of the present former Secretary-Treasurers (4,) many agreed with the assessment of the current Secretary-Treasurer regarding the splitting of the Secretary-Treasurer position and it being beneficial to the Nation. 	
	<p>Discussion regarding logistics of meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary will be out of state for much of the New Year, Yvonne agrees to run the technology for meetings held at the tribal offices 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Enrollment Committee meeting and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement that in a Secretary-Treasurer split, the duties of the Secretary would include the current position of the Secretary-Treasurer as Enrollment Chair • Discussion regarding how Business Committee members are Chairs on other Committee(s) including Claims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part of the idea for there being a BC member is so there is a champion or a liaison between the tribal government and its Standing Committees ○ Discussion regarding the possibilities of carving out BC membership on non-Business Committees as a liaison and non-voting Chair position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Council comfort with tribal government is important, the presence of a BC member may stifle discussion depending on the individuals elected • Historical Enrollment Committee duties and procedures were overseen by the Federal Government up until about the mid-1970s when it was transferred to tribal oversight as far as the Constitution Advisory Committee is aware <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partial and quick review of Duties of Officers Chapter in NARF Tribal Constitution Handbook by Secretary, most of the included Secretary positions don't include enrollment duties in the examples of many Tribal Constitutions & By-Laws • Discussion regarding logistics of Enrollment Officer and Enrollment Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enrollment Officer's position as tribal administrative employee means they can be a non-tribal member, it would not be appropriate to have non-tribal members put on our Enrollment Committee 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enrollment Officer's current duty to assist the Enrollment Committee as stands today is appropriate, and can be further governed by Tribal Governing Documents as needed ● Light discussion regarding the use of Grievance, Enrollment, and Election Committees by different political administrations, CAC has seen this each individually ● Discussion regarding Membership of the Nation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current Membership of the Nation (Constitution Article III) includes the words “and their lineal descendants” pertaining to the 1937 census roll of tribal members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This means that tribal membership can skip a generation, provided the potential enrollee can prove their descent from a tribal member on the 1937 census roll ▪ Discussion regarding this matter ○ Committee unanimously agrees that Dual Enrollment protections should go into the Membership of the Nation ○ Discussion regarding the use of dual enrollment prohibitions and blood quantum tracking as methods to diminish Native sovereignty especially when in use by the Federal Government 	
	<p>Discussion planning for the February 3rd, 2024 Town Hall Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supplies and Materials budget line reviewed per new budget and information provided to CAC by Shanna Daniels in Accounting via email on 12/12/2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supplies and Materials is on the previous 2 Town Halls, including beverages, snacks, notetaking supplies for tribal members present, storage tubs for all supplies, etc. ● Upcoming Town Hall – biggest expense will be meat for dinner, 20lbs of beef roast, 10lbs each for beef and hominy & meat gravy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yvonne to calculate amounts of items needed for a Town Hall dinner as we have planned ● Procurement to be emailed final list so all items will be there by Friday, February 2nd, 2024 ● Due to fiscal year end in September, budget has been renewed, about \$200 some has been spent out of the Supplies and Materials budget 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding hosting a Pawhuska Town Hall, attendance is a good question to poll on the Facebook group 	
	<p>Oath of Office Update from Angela</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela emailed Curt Lawrence and Charlie Diebold regarding the present Oath • Curt replied that Tony Gonzales first administered his Oath, couldn't remember who administered it the second time and that he does not have a written copy of the Oath • Roberta provides basic Oath of Office as she has drafted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "I NAME, do solemnly swear to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in the Office of BLANK to the best of my abilities." ○ Committee will continue to build on this Oath • Subject tabled for further revision on January 1st, 2024 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Facebook polling questions finalization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristi and Earlyne – not able to draft questions since last meeting, but one was posted in CAC Facebook group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First question was on if the quorum for the Special Meeting of the General Council called by the Grievance Committee for the Removal of an Officers should be lowered from the current 150? ○ 8 said yes, 7 said no, 135 members currently in CAC Facebook group, poll question seen by 65 • Committee will finalize wording and date of questions to be posted (summarized below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should the voting age be lowered to 16? - post this week ○ Should there be more than 1 scheduled Annual Meeting of the General Council? - post Dec 24th, 2023 ○ Should tribal members with felony convictions be allowed to run for/hold tribal offices? - Dec 31st, 2023 ○ If you are in the Pawhuska area, would you attend a Town Hall meeting put on by the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's Constitution Advisory Committee? - post Jan 7th, 2024 • Discussion regarding at-large representation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No question in particular identified at this time due to the number of ways at-large representation can be implemented 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Further Enrollment information needed to draft question, Natalie to request from Kim Guyett for the following tribal statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of tribal members per State ▪ Number of tribal members within the 150mi radius (incl the 4-State 150mi radius) ● Discussion regarding a Code of Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What should be on our Code of Ethics? ○ No question specifically identified to poll ● Discussion regarding a TERO employee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not within the purview of the CAC to be including the establishment of a Tribal Employment Rights Officer ○ Need is present for such an Officer ● Further discussion regarding tribally chartered corporations and the ramifications possible regarding regular political turnover in the chain of command <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential solution includes a procedure to create an independent Board of Directors for each corporation, several years after incorporation 	
	<p>Discussion regarding communication with the General Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flyer for the February 3rd, 2024 Town Hall reviewed, versions finalized for distribution ● Newsletter draft not done, still more input needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee agrees to include notice of the polling and Facebook group, a version of the Town Hall flyer, QR codes to Tribal Governing Documents and CAC produced work ○ Got something to say? Let's hear it! ○ Important to affirm tribal member voices and their right to be heard 	
	<p>Initial Advisory Report Update from Jo Lynn and Natalie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jo Lynn has sent back rough draft report to Natalie today ● Natalie to review and continue adding topics that this Committee agrees upon ● CAC will review Draft Initial Advisory Report at January 1 meeting 	
	<p>Discussion regarding the powers in the Corporate Charter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scott speaks to his experiences with the Corporate Charter we have, as well as the use of Corporate Charters from other Native Nations 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scott agrees to get examples of newer and updated Corporate Charters for different Native Nations, provide to CAC for further review ○ There are at least 2 new Federal and/or State laws since the adoption of our original Corporate Charter in the 1930s ● Matter tabled until January 29, 2024 meeting of the CAC 	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further discussion regarding the current budget, confirmed with Dennis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supplies and Materials line item can be reallocated for additional Town Halls ○ Budget as it stands is already approved, we do have the ability to amend if needed ● Roberta and Scott to attend public Business Committee meeting for 1. attendance policy Resolution change and 2. request conditional approval for travel to Pawhuska provided there is a response from tribal members located in the area when the question is polled ● Discussion regarding the creation of this Constitution Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No Resolution known to present CAC members regarding the creation of this Committee ○ Secretary reviews the available BC & General Council Resolutions for the title of “Constitution” or “Committee” relating to this topic – none found ○ Review of the creating documents for this Committee – no Business Committee Resolution mentioned ● Scott provides the knowledge of there being at least two previous Constitution Committees for the Nation, no results from their work, the last one was 10+ years ago 	
	<p>Confirmation of next meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular Meeting of CAC (virtual) on Jan 01, 2024 @ 6pm ● Public Business Committee meeting on Jan 02, 2024 @ 6pm 	
8:43pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	