



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, Sep 01, 2025	TIME PLACE	6pm CT Zoom only	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present - Zoom	Yvonne Perryman	Present - Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present - Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present - Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present - Zoom	Others Present:	Curt Lawrence - Zoom 0 General Council Member

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
06:00 PM	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.	
	Approval of Previous Minutes – AUG 25, 2025 minutes spoken to, minor amendments to the record including 1. correction to number of Ethics Committee members, 2. wording clarification on relationship of subcommittees and Standing Committees to Business Committee structure, 3. wording clarification on distinction of committee oversight between Business Committee and General Council 4. clarification of topics discussed and 5. Resolution # clarification – minutes APPROVED	Natalie

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>09/01/2025</u> the minutes of <u>08/25/2025</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>09/08/2025</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attest: <u> /s/Natalie Dixon </u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	
	<p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Roll Call ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – AUG 25, 2025 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – SEP 15, 2025 	Natalie
--	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Budget • Election and Grievance Committee meetings • Tribal Member Outreach • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 09/15/2025 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>During Approval of the Minutes, Constitution Committee becomes aware of an AI bot creating a transcript for a participant not in the meeting.</p> <p>Original tribal outreach messaging includes requesting tribal member attendance and participation.</p> <p>Several Committee members voice discomfort with use of bots when meeting is already being recorded by Secretary of said Committee.</p> <p>Committee agrees that Secretary's records including transcript, recordings, and/or minutes are sufficient to generate questions among tribal members and further bots or outside transcription services will not be permitted.</p>	
	Curt Lawrence arrives	

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	Standing and other Committee meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election Committee is scheduled to meet with us on September 29 @ 6pm, proposed questions have been shared with them Grievance Committee Chairperson stated they would be meeting soon to discuss times, definitely will not be this meeting, the proposed questions have been shared with them 	
	Budget Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation between Finance Department and Secretary has not yet taken place Still need to determine supplies and materials to be included in the budget Fiscal Year 25 (this year to Oct) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 stipends some for meeting with Election Committee No supplies necessary Fiscal Year 26 (Oct to next Annual Meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 stipends should be included to cover all non-employee non-Business Committee officials - incl (3) Benefits/Claims/Welfare Committee, (2) Tax Commission, (7) Enrollment Committee, 2 Grievance Committee meetings of 5 members each and an additional (5) Election Committee meeting Office Supplies/Materials incl paper @ \$50/box x2 = \$100 total Are professional fees necessary? 	
	Codification of Laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most recent Business Committee meeting included discussion on the codification of laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues include Resolutions that are obscure or only held by one or a few people, gaps in the tribal archive, Resolutions only coming up when relevant 	

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	<p>to contemporary situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solution could include tribal member outreach via a request for all Resolutions that are then compared to the digital archive provided by Kim Guyett as Secretary-Treasurer, and if not present there then copied for the tribal administration and Constitution Committee both <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ This can be a data point where tribal members are able to bring up General Council Resolutions that they find important ◦ This is a way to show due diligence in the codification of laws ◦ This solution would allow the Business Committee and the Constitution Committee to work in tandem for their respective goals of a Code of Laws and Constitutional amendments ◦ Natalie to coordinate with Business Committee at their next monthly meeting, further coordination possible with Carrie Mott who is scanning Resolutions in • Further issues identified including inconsistent and/or unclear Resolution numbering, the intersection of Business Committee and General Council Resolutions, use of Tax Commission funds without Resolutions • Failure to understand the current codification of laws taking place will result in double the work - writing 2 sets of amendments that consider either the current Business Committee and General Council Resolution structure, or amendments that consider a Code of Laws with the associated procedures for amendment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ It is necessary to read Mr. Halloran's proposal ◦ Curt Lawrence to send Halloran's proposal to Constitution Committee • Enforcement of the Code of Laws may need to be addressed; outlining mechanisms of enforcement for other Constitutional matters may be necessary including possibly a judicial system beyond the 	

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	<p>Grievance Committee tribunal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current access to judicial systems includes the Code of Federal Regulations courts or local or federal criminal courts ○ An intertribal judicial consortium has been in the works with other local tribes to create a multi-tribe judicial system ○ Jurisdiction article may be needed in future rewrites 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Crump investigation and speaking with Crump</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget may need to reflect professional fees if he will charge any • Curt has not sent email introducing Committee to Crump • Due to possible cost we will stick with investigative report handed out at 2025 Annual Meeting • Monthly Business Committee meeting is this coming Tuesday (Sept 2, 2025) so Crump questions update can be requested then 	
	<p>Hypothetical Use of Resolutions in a Code of Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility to have Business Committee Resolutions amend the code but General Council Resolutions individually ratify the amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This procedure may allow more involvement by the General Council • More discussion is needed on this topic as it is tentative and there has been little movement on the codification of laws 	
	<p>Discussion on Constitution Article III - Membership of the Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior amendment didn't consider present-day enrollment concerns including the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children being enrolled without a birth parent on the rolls (showing descent-only from the 1937 roll) ○ Children being adopted by a Seneca-Cayuga parent who then enrolls the child in the tribe, the child 	

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	<p>may or may not be Seneca-Cayuga and may or may not have Indian blood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dual Enrollment paperwork exists in the tribal archives (Business Committee Resolution #94-032015) which prohibits dual enrollment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post-Meeting Addendum: Business Committee Resolution #50-050421 rescinded the 2015 Resolution and so there is no currently known legislative documents in effect on dual enrollment ○ Jay Treaty rights for Canadian Indians are enforced with blood quantum - it may be prudent to state that all Seneca-Cayuga Nation citizens are considered to have a 4/4 blood quantum to ensure treaty rights are not impacted in the future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ News article on Canadian Indians crossed using Jay Treaty and being denied on basis of blood quantum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/indigenous-jay-treaty-work-us-1.7103716 ▪ Jay Treaty Border Crossing Alliance - NGO dedicated to helping Indians cross the US-Canada borders using the Jay Treaty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.jaytreatyborderalliance.com/crossingtheuscanadaborder ○ Is "Indian" or "Native American" more suitably used in this article? • Review of current Seneca-Cayuga Nation Enrollment application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://sctribe.com/sites/default/files/NewEnrollmentForm.pdf • Enrollment Committee primarily running into issues of adoption and skipped generation enrollments, sometimes more documentation is requested • Review of Gila River Indian Community Constitution and enrollment provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://naair.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/constitution_gila_river_0.pdf • Review of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Constitution and enrollment provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://tmchippewa.com/wp-content/uploads/ 	

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	<p><u>2018/03/TRIBAL-CONSTITUTION-2015.pdf</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Seneca Nation (NY) Constitution and enrollment provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <u>https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/ll/llscd/2002615610/2002615610.pdf</u> • Possible solution to blood quantum issues could be doing inclusive blood quantum - eg half Seneca-Cayuga and half-Cherokee people would be considered 4/4 blood quantum if enrolled in one Nation with inclusive blood quantum • Other Native Nations do censuses every 10 years, this may be a good measure to take for funding purposes • Storing a will on file with the tribe may be a proactive move for dealing with land allotment issues 	
	<p>Tribal Member Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie to draft short text messages for tribal member outreach • Newsletter issue due January 15th, Committee agrees to have summary draft done by the 8th of December if not then the 22nd of December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ QR code to Facebook group ◦ QR code to Facebook live 	
	Confirmation of next meeting on Sept 15, 2025 @ 6pm	
08:00 PM	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	