



# SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

<b>DATE</b>	Monday, March 11, 2024	<b>TIME PLACE</b>	6pm CT Tribal HQ + Zoom	<b>FACILITATOR</b>	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 - Zoom	Earlyne Gentry	Present
Kristi Birdsong Blansett	Present	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present - Zoom
Yvonne Perryman-Matthews	Present later - Zoom	Others Present	None

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:01pm	<p><b>Called to Order</b> - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.</p>	Carrie
	<p><b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b> – March 04, 2024 minutes reviewed as a group, all CAC members present prior to approval, minor spelling and grammar changes made to minutes – <b>minutes APPROVED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CERTIFICATION</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>On <u>03/11/2024</u>, the minutes of <u>03/04/2024</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>03/18/2024</u>.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attest:</b> <u>Natalie Dixon</u></p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<b>Natalie Dixon, Secretary</b>	
	<b>Housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Roll Call</li> <li>ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – MAR 04, 2024</li> <li>iii. Confirmation of next meeting – MAR 18, 2024</li> </ul>	Natalie
--	<b>Planned Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housekeeping</li> <li>• Finalizing a Preamble</li> <li>• Create an Article for Elections</li> <li>• Duties of Officers</li> <li>• Any Other Business</li> <li>• Next Constitution meeting 03/18/2024 @ 6pm</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes Begin</b>		
6:07pm	<b>Yvonne arrives prior to finishing the Approval of Minutes</b>	
6:17pm	<b>CAC drafts an example preamble</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1831 and 1832 removal treaties added to 1794 Canandaigua Treaty mention</li> <li>• Discussion regarding length of drafted preamble <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Most actionable ideas or intentions are within the subsections of draft</li> <li>○ Should the subsections of the preamble be put into Constitution Article II – Object [of the Nation]</li> <li>○ Definition of “preamble” read aloud – includes the purpose, aims, and/or justifications for a document, all of which are present in the drafted preamble</li> <li>○ Important info to include in any future preamble includes a limited treaty history, mention of our language(s) and culture, sovereignty of the Nation</li> <li>○ Informal vote – 3 CAC members find drafted preamble to be too long, other 5 CAC members find the current length of drafted preamble appropriate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<b>CAC discusses creation of an Elections Article in Constitution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Elections Article can include the Oath of Office</li> <li>• CAC reviews list of all mentions regarding elections in current Tribal Governing Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution Article V – Officers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution Article VIII – Annual Meetings</li> <li>○ Constitution Article IX – Vacancies</li> <li>○ Constitution Article X - Removal of Officers</li> <li>○ By-Laws Article I, Section 2 – Duties of Officers, Chief</li> <li>○ By-Laws Article II – Qualifications of Officers</li> <li>● Discussion regarding electoral disputes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current language in Article VIII – Annual Meetings references sixty (60) days after expiration of an officer's term is the legal end to their elected position</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Can absentee balloting be counted towards quorum? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current meeting procedure is Robert's Rules of Order, which specifies that physical presence is the basis for a quorum unless otherwise specified</li> <li>○ Hypothetical General Council meeting for elections including absentee balloting, would need significant amount (300-400+) of votes made in order for election to be valid/certifiable</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Discussion regarding a hypothetical Business Committee (BC) where 4 officers are legally removed through Constitution Article X – Removal of Officers, and if then no BC quorum could be made, possible scenarios include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the Business Committee or Election Committee invalidates an election due to protest</li> <li>○ If an election dispute is filed against a newly elected BC member that prevents them taking office and the ability to make quorum</li> </ul> </li> <li>● CAC agrees that Election Committee should initially receive any electoral disputes</li> </ul>	
8:38pm	<b>Scott leaves for the night</b>	
	<p><b>Discussion continues regarding Elections Article</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Election Committee should be the first avenue for electoral challenges, not CFR Court</li> <li>● Election Committee should have the power to call a Special Meeting of the General Council for vacant elected officers</li> <li>● Natalie to draft Election Article</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Discussion regarding By-Laws Article I - Duties of Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Section 1, Chief – potential duties reviewed and discussed including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Calling to order and presiding over regular and special BC meetings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Calling to order and presiding over any petitioned or regular meetings of the General Council</li> <li>○ Lobby for funding for our Nation</li> <li>○ Set reasonable goals and to track tribal progress during their term</li> <li>○ Negotiate and approve contracts; review policies and procedures</li> <li>○ Oversee Secretary and Treasurer</li> <li>○ Build and maintain relationships with governmental agencies and businesses</li> <li>○ To act as the principal spokesperson and representative for the Nation in its dealings with all other governmental and non-governmental entities; or to delegate such duties to other elected officers or tribal officials as authorized by the Business Committee</li> <li>○ To vote only in the case of a tie</li> <li>● Section 2, Second Chief – potential duties reviewed and discussed including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Undertaking on the duties of the office of Chief in the event of their absence</li> <li>○ Assuming the office of Chief immediately upon the vacancy of the office of Chief, until the next regular or special election for the office of Chief</li> <li>○ Any other duties as delegated by the Chief</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Section 3, Secretary-Treasurer – Position to be split, would be hypothetical Section 4, Treasurer and Section 3, Secretary, duties remain needing to be split</li> <li>● Hypothetical Section 3, Secretary – potential duties reviewed and discussed including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correctly recording proceedings of all Business Committee and General Council meetings that include detailed minutes released within ten (10) days to the General Council of the Nation</li> <li>○ Making the order of business (agenda) for the Chief</li> <li>○ Notifying Committees and Committee members of their election</li> <li>○ Custody and safeguarding the records and papers/documents of the General Council and Business Committee; Secretary shall allow the inspection of any non-confidential records and papers at any time by members of the General Council who desire to read them</li> <li>○ Shall keep a correct list of all members of the General Council, shall authenticate all accounts or orders of the General Council, and in absence of the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p>Chief and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief shall create the agenda and call meetings to order until a Chair pro tem is elected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintain and update the list of tribal members while maintaining their right to privacy</li> <li>○ Oversee the handling of correspondence</li> <li>○ All other duties as assigned by the General Council and/or Chief</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hypothetical Section 4, Treasurer - potential duties reviewed and discussed including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Logging or providing bills and expenditures as necessary</li> <li>○ Oversee the income and expenses of the Nation, including for any entities organized under the Corporate Charter</li> <li>○ Safeguard the financial wellbeing of the Nation</li> <li>○ Compile monthly financial reports for the public Business Committee meetings</li> <li>○ Enforce financial policy and procedural compliance within the Nation and its government, including best practices</li> <li>○ Handling the receipts, bookkeeping, and protections of the Nation's funds and securities</li> <li>○ Make yearly budget appropriations</li> <li>○ Monitor and ensure proper adherence to financial tax regulations</li> <li>○ To prepare and present to the to the General Council for approval, no later than 120 days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, a proposed annual Tribal financial plan that sets forth in detail the then current assets of the Nation, the sources and amounts of all anticipated tribal revenues for the year, as well as the tribal budget for said year</li> <li>○ File a bond as necessary – can be kept in-line with current By-Laws Article I – Duties of Officers Section 3, Secretary-Treasurer bond language</li> <li>○ Ensure the collection of all monies due to the Nation</li> <li>○ Ensure the payment of all monies owed by the Nation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Discussion regarding By-Laws Article II – Qualifications of Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Specific Treasurer qualifications – to have significant accounting experience, as well as no prior criminal record of financial crimes</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition to the qualifications of elected officers to include the prohibition of officers who have a criminal background that includes crimes of moral turpitude</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Quapaw Nation Constitution Committee has relayed that their Native Nations seminar will take place in April, not March</b></p>	
	<p><b>Confirmation of next meeting on March 18, 2024 @ 6pm</b></p>	
	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roberta to Chair March 18, 2024 @ 6pm meeting, Carrie to be absent</li> <li>• Review Qualifications of Officers</li> <li>• Powers of General Council and Business Committee</li> </ul>	
8:55pm	<p><b>Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus</b></p>	