



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, April 01, 2024	TIME PLACE	6:30pm CT Zoom only	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present later - Zoom	Scott B Goode	Present - Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present – Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Not Present
Natalie Dixon	Present – Zoom	Earlyne Gentry	Present – Zoom
Kristi Birdsong Blansett	Present - Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present – Zoom
Yvonne Perryman-Matthews	Present – Zoom	Others Present	N/A

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:31pm	<p>Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's special Constitution Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.</p>	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – March 25, 2024 minutes reviewed as a group, one minor word change made to the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">On <u>04/01/2024</u> the minutes of <u>03/25/2024</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>04/05/2024</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Attest: <u><i>Natalie Dixon</i></u> Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	Natalie
	<p>Housekeeping</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">i. Roll Call</p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – MAR 25, 2024 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – APR 09, 2024 	
	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Members versus Citizens language use • Ethics and Sanctioning – document from Yvonne • Any Other Business • Next Constitution meeting 04/09/2024 @ 6:30pm • Special Meeting needed Sunday, April 14, 2024? 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>Discussion on the use of the word “citizen” in lieu of “member”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage of citizen fosters sovereignty, pulls us in-line with other governments both internationally and locally • CAC members all agree that the words “tribal citizen(s)” should be used in place of “tribal member(s)” 	
6:42pm	Roberta arrives	
	<p>CAC discusses recently proposed Code of Ethics and procedure; also sanctioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All changes per Scott and Jo Lynn have been updated in the Code of Ethics document created by Yvonne • There remain some questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is an appropriate quorum for Grievances to be heard? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3, 4, or 5 Committee members? ▪ Needs to be written in such a way so that if there are only 4 Grievance Committee members then it cannot inhibit business ○ Should the Business Committe (BC) be active in the Grievance process if it relates to Key Management Personnel hired, appointed, contracted, or otherwise engaged by the BC? ○ What will change as time goes on? Ie what is important for the Constitution and what can be written in an Ordinance? • Draft provided by Yvonne is a good example of a Code of Ethics and Ethics procedures, it lays out good procedure when reviewed with a legal professional lens 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May need to table matter due to time constraints • The CAC believes that proper Ethics code and procedure needs to be added into the Constitution, an Ethics Committee can pass an Ethics Ordinance that further details policies and procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All CAC members agree that there is this need for a Code of Ethics, including an Ethics Committee separate from the Grievance Committee ○ The judge cannot also be the prosecutor in a case, it is necessary for a separate entity such as an Ethics Committee to act in the interest of the General Council in prosecuting ethics violations and the Grievance Committee can remain impartial • All CAC members agree that Committee secretaries should turn all their minutes into the Secretary of the Nation • “quasi-judicial procedure” in this case is apparent in the following process; a complaint is made, probable cause to move forward is found, notice is given to the respondent, and a Special Meeting similar to a trial is held <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due process needs to be protected, this includes the notice, hearing, and finding of facts, any punitive actions will require due process in the form of getting notice, the right to counsel, the right to records, the right to a hearing in front of those making the call • Constitution Article X – Removal of Officers: article could be used for sanctioning and punitive measures, but such a topic cannot be rushed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report can include that we have began discussing this and how it would work with our structure, actual paperwork can be provided as an example to the Business Committee • Code of Ethics reviewed is an example only, is not officially agreed upon, and not fully vetted as a CAC recommendation, some members have reservations • On disclosures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-candidacy, candidate could file a Conflict of Interest with the Election Committee, to be updated yearly with Grievance or Ethics Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would be an Election Committee duty to make sure such forms are filled out initially ▪ After it would be the responsibility of the candidate for yearly updates • Entwined with a Code of Ethics and the results from filed complaints is sanctioning, which brings in a stricter requirement for due process 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The specifics of an Ethics code does need to be malleable ○ Types of unethical behavior can be referenced in the Constitution, and further elaborated on by an Ethics Ordinance created by an Ethics Committee • A Code of Ethics is to define unethical behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grievance procedures and consequences is necessary for the Nation 	
	<p>Motion #21 (Scott/Carrie) - an Ethics Committee be created and a Code of Ethics be drafted to be adopted - unanimous committee vote – motion carried</p>	
	<p>Discussion regarding ethical behavior, disclosure forms, and standards in the Oath of Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential Conflicts of Interest and Financial Disclosures should have a yearly update, should be obtained from all leadership for tribal businesses and tribal government, including tribal administrative directors and all Committees and subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be reviewed as needed for Grievances filed under an Ethics article in Tribal Governing Documents • Oath of Office contents can be on the job application – tribal employees should sign such a form when being hired by the Nation 	
	<p>Discussions regarding the continuation of CAC work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary to have Resolutions regarding our work from the BC and/or General Council – no known Resolutions have been passed regarding the CAC or its work • CAC can pre-write both the Business Committee and General Council Resolutions and attach to this report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Language can include “all members as of the date of April 15, 2024 will continue their work as the Constitution Advisory Committee, to be renewed by the General Council annually.” 	
	<p>Review of the Table of Authorities and Interim Advisory Report being drafted</p>	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC agrees to move the regularly scheduled meeting to April 9th at 6:30pm CT due to the eclipse 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If meeting requires more work, CAC may meet on Sunday, the 14th, prior to the due date of the report on April 15th 	
	Confirmation of next meeting on Tues April 09, 2024 @ 6:30pm CT	
8:04pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	

