



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, Nov 24, 2025	TIME PLACE	6pm CT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Yvonne Perryman	Present – Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present – Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present – Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present	Others Present:	Curt Lawrence – Present via Zoom 4 General Council Members

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:00pm	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's Special Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.	Carrie
	Approval of Previous Minutes – November 10, 2025 minutes reviewed on the record with CC members, minor grammatical and spelling corrections made on the record to better reader understanding – minutes APPROVED	Natalie

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>11/24/2025</u> the minutes of <u>11/10/2025</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>12/08/2025</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/s/Natalie Dixon Attest: _____ Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	
	<p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Roll Call ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – NOV 10, 2025 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – DEC 8, 2025 	Natalie
--	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Amendment Drafting • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 12/08/2025 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>During minutes' approval discussion included the following matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No official budget was approved by the General Council as the original budget was not specifically mentioned by the 2025 General Council Resolution that creates the Constitution Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If there is an indirect rate percentage being charged on the budget, the figure is unknown this is the subject of an open records request ○ Chief emailed the Chairperson of the Constitution Committee to enquire about Constitution Committee budgets, the Chair forwarded the email to the Secretary who replied to all Constitution and Business Committee members noting the budget issues and making records request on indirect cost materials • Review of duties of presiding officer per Robert's Rules 	

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	<p>added to 11/10/2025 meeting minutes as post-script</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secretary Addendum - Relevant Robert's Rules under Rule 47 Officers as mentioned for in By-Laws Article III Section 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roberts Rules 47:7(2) – to announce business that comes before an assembly or is on the agenda ▪ Robert's Rules 47:7(7) – to expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members ▪ Robert's Rules 47:7(9) – to respond to member inquiries relating to parliamentary procedure or information requests bearing on business of the assembly ▪ Robert's Rules 47:19 – to have a good disposition, to be fair and just, to not take advantage of a citizen's lack of knowledge on parliamentary law, to not be more technical or strict than is necessary, to have good judgement 	
	<p>Constitution Committee reviews first draft of newsletter materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QR Codes to be used • Pictures of each member to be sent to Secretary for a spread • What materials should be published in the newsletter for General Council review and commentary? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oath of Office for sure ○ Tribal Legislative Hierarchy? ○ Let tribal members know that proposed amendments will be presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the General Council 	
6:30pm thru 6:45pm	General Council member and Business Committee liaison join the meeting; Jo Lynn's connection is spotty and drops sometime during drafting the Oath of Office	
	<p>Constitution Committee begins drafting Oath of Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Poarch Band of Creek Indians Constitution 	

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	<p>preamble</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of oath of office used for a recent Election Committee as provided by the Nation's HR department to Constitution Committee Chairperson • Language and terminology discussed while drafting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Future prosperity, quality of life, common good, benefit, advancement, stability, harmony, strength and unity, rights, interests, sovereign interests, continuity, public good, general good, best interest, collective well-being, education, physical and mental health, economic development, fiduciary duty or responsibility ○ Safeguarding, promoting, perpetuating, honoring ○ Propriety, impartiality, responsibility, dignity, not misleading by a false statement or fact of law, decorum, etiquette, decency, prudence, politeness, courtesy, attentiveness, faithfully, ethically 	
7:17pm	General Council members arrive via Zoom	
	<p>Constitution Committee begins drafting Oath of Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and terminology discussion continued while drafting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shall versus Will terminology explored <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shall creates a promise or imposes a duty in any future or hypothetical situation ▪ Will creates an obligation in a given situation that is not necessarily a hypothetical ▪ Will is best terminology to use for swearing in an elected official eg. "I will not [...] I will show [...] I will not mislead [...]" ○ Sovereignty vs Sovereign Immunity discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current draft included "I will take action against all those who would undermine, defraud, or otherwise take or support any action that would diminish the sovereign immunity or jurisdiction of 	

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	<p>the Seneca-Cayuga Nation”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preference for “Sovereignty” given by Constitution Committee and BC liaison present ▪ Discussion over the perspective of diminishing sovereignty, eg. Cross-deputization agreements and their effect on sovereignty and if that would result in strife over the different interpretations and opinions of sovereignty ▪ Duty to protect and enact sovereignty is better than waiting until sovereignty is diminished for an elected official to act on it 	
7:52pm	Constitution Committee takes a break	
8:02pm	Constitution Committee returns	
	<p>Constitution Committee reviews refined draft of Oath of Office, combining it with prior discussed word choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial draft approved for Oath of Office at this meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I, _____, do solemnly affirm that I will uphold, support, and defend the Constitution, By-Laws, Resolutions, Ordinances, codes, rules, and sovereignty of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation. I pledge to protect our Nation from any action or influence that would undermine, defraud, or diminish its jurisdiction or inherent rights. ○ I further affirm that I will serve with honesty, integrity, and respect for the laws and values of our people. I will not mislead by false statement, nor act in any manner that compromises the trust placed in me. I will conduct my duties with dignity, decorum, and the highest level of fiduciary responsibility, guided always by truth, justice, and a commitment to the collective well-being and advancement of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation—its culture, languages, and citizens. ○ With this oath, I commit myself to faithful, 	

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	ethical, and impartial service, devoting my best efforts and abilities to the promotion, protection, and perpetuation of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, now and for future generations.	
	<p>Business Committee liaison is asked about Constitution Committee budgets; other Business Committee matters also discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison has not seen budgets make it to his Docusign list, neither has any other Business Committee member present • Business Committee Resolution for authorizing the spending of General Council Welfare Fund has not been passed by Business Committees • Secretary-Treasurer of the Business Committee was personally handed printouts of Chairperson, Secretary, and Committee member's records requests, Secretary of the Constitution Committee scheduled a meeting date with the Secretary-Treasurer for December 5, 2025 @ 10am Central to receive documents 	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to send Natalie pictures for newsletter, target completion date is December 8, 2025 • Special Meeting scheduled for November 30, 2025 @ 2pm Central 	
	Confirmation of next regular meeting on December 08, 2025 @ 6pm Central	
8:23pm	Motion #12 (Roberta/Carrie) – to adjourn meeting - unanimous committee vote – motion carries	