



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, December 22, 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 – Present via Zoom 3 General Council Members

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6:03pm	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.	
	Approval of Previous Minutes – November 24, 2025 and November 30, 2025 minutes spoken to, no further corrections or amendments made on the record, prior email corrections included minor grammatical corrections. See 11/30/2025 meeting minutes for 11/24 Certification and 12/08/2025 minutes for 11/30 Certification. – minutes APPROVED <u>CERTIFICATION</u> On _01/05/2026_ the minutes of _12/08/2025_ were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on _01/26/2026_.	Natalie

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	<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 – NOV 24 & NOV 30, 2025 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – JAN 05, 2026 	Natalie
--	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Chairperson's Statement and Response from Secretary-Treasurer • Newsletter Review • Further Drafting • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 01/05/2026 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>Finalization of Newsletter draft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to letter speaking to the General Council, primarily grammatical changes and sentence shortening • Review of changes to draft Oath of Office; changes are all wording based or clarifications of grammar eg. Future generations vs. the generations to come. 	
	<p>Chairperson of Constitution Committee and Secretary-Treasurer email chain and response memorialization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from Chairperson to Secretary-Treasurer and both Business and Constitution Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Constitution Committee Chair notes that on November 18, 2025, the Constitution Committee Secretary formally requested copies of the approved budgets for both fiscal years along with the corresponding Resolutions to allow for the processing of outstanding committee stipends. As of this time, no 	

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	<p>response or acknowledgment has been received from the Nation's Secretary-Treasurer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to the absence of a response to the Committee's request, and in my capacity as Chairperson of the Constitution Committee, I am reiterating this request pursuant to By-Laws Article I, Section 3, and By-Laws Article III, Section 6, including Robert's Rules of Order 47:33(4), 47:33(5), and 47:36. ○ The SC Nation's Secretary-Treasurer is directed to provide, without further delay, either the requested budgets for both fiscal years along with their corresponding Resolutions, or written confirmation that the budgets were not completed on this date, including the specific reason for the delay. ○ This statement is entered into the record to ensure compliance with governing documents and to prevent further delay in committee stipend payments. ○ Entered into the record by the Chair, ○ Respectfully submitted, ○ Carrie Kneeland ○ Chairperson, Constitution Committee ○ Date: December 18, 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email reply from Secretary-Treasurer to Chairperson et al. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good Morning, ○ Apologies for the delay in response. Please find attached approved budgets. No resolutions were adopted in connection with the approval of these budgets. This correspondence also serves to confirm that the following committee members will be compensated for the meetings listed below, with payment to be issued on the next scheduled payroll, Friday. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Election Committee 9-29-25. 4 members ■ Raylene Hackler ■ Tommie Ray ■ Davey Blansett 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leah Tarrant ▪ Grievance Committee 10-19-25 5 members ▪ Preston Baker ▪ Ryan Birdsong ▪ David Lane ▪ Shawn Stovall ▪ Rama Wright ○ Please let me know if there were any additional meetings held which committees are awaiting payment. This is the most recent information I have received from the Accounting Department. ○ Thank you, ○ Melissa 	
6:19pm thru 6:25pm	Curt Lawrene and Yvonne Perryman arrive	
	<p>Discussion on lack of documentation given for previous records requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include minutes for Business Committee meetings and the General Council Resolutions that create the Constitution Committee; last available minutes on website is January 2024 • Business Committee member present states that they have received copies of the Business Committee minutes prior to meeting approval but that lately there have not been minutes and there was a period of weeks without minutes • Constitution Committee member suggests solution being that publishing minutes to the General Council is made a duty of the Secretary's office • Past and current issues with minutes not including access to them are the lack of written discussion surrounding decisions when they are made, Business Committee Resolutions were not clearly defined as to when they are made after a decision, voting was sometimes wrong when recorded and/or done without roll call voting, unclear lines between votes versus 	

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	<p>consensus language when decisions are made and acted upon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agendas are also not always provided in a timely manner before meeting • Duties to prepare minutes should be put under a general secretary responsibility and not just an elected Business Committee Secretary position • Robert's Rules Rule 48 – Minutes (LARGE PDF) • Specific requirements on the minutes is more suited for a Structure of Government article • Secretarial duties were shared by two Business Committee members when Secretary-Treasurer position was vacant, but there was no official mechanism for delegation of those duties • Business Committee Resolution is appropriate legislation for situations where duties need to be delegated • Current duties of Secretary-Treasurer wording “in the presence” is interpreted as no copies can be provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This interpretation is currently holding up codification of laws • Business Committee member present states that they are aware of a hard drive containing scanned documents from previous codification efforts in 2023-2024 that was found by Chief and then given to the current Secretary-Treasurer 	
	<p>Secretary and Treasurer duties separated from currently combined duties of office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior Tax Commissions, Grievance, Claims, Constitution Advisory, and Enrollment Committees have had issues with access to requested relevant documents and legislation • Secretary duty can include maintaining digital and physical document library that all elected officials can access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Right to privacy important to mention for Secretary duties related to library and Enrollment Committee ○ The right to privacy must be balanced against the right to know when proven wrongdoings 	

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	<p>happen and transparency when egregious acts happen against the Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split duties of Secretary-Treasurer position should be acknowledged as able to be combined if the duties are split but the position is not split in worst case scenario • It is essential to meet with past Secretary-Treasurers to discuss their thoughts on the split of duties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Enrollment Committee meeting is supposed to be 01/07/2026 @ 2pm Central ○ Additional past Secretary-Treasurers to contact for this meeting – Sarah Sue Channing, Thomas Weidman, Kim Guyett ○ Carrie to contact Enrollment Officer regarding next Enrollment Committee meeting • There should be a separation between the role of the Business Committee's Secretary and the general Secretary duties that will be required on several Committees • Specific places for minute publishing should be named to avoid loopholes, including possibly naming digital access • Fees to have copies made may be unfairly applied or prevent access to requested documents – possible check and balance to have the General Council be the ones to set copy fees/costs • The bond currently in place is discussed in Secretary-Treasurer duties and is required to file a bond satisfactory to the Business Committee and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs if the total tribal monies is over \$50 – no one is sure when this was last done – correct terminology is fidelity bond • Approximate yearly revenue to Tax Commission is about \$2 million, but will be higher once the local convenience store/gas station is complete and fuel starts being sold <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We do have <u>a motor fuel compact signed with the state</u> that will expire about 2026 ○ Currently Secretary-Treasurer is named on Tax Commission, the Treasurer would receive this duty in a split ○ Business Committee Resolutions are currently supposed to be made to spend Tax Commission 	

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	<p>monies, but this is not written anywhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current Tax Commission membership is down one General Council member who resigned, there are two ● Discussion on the reasons for executive session meetings of the Business Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personnel and employee issues should be dealt with confidentially ○ Proprietary enterprise information including whatever is covered by Non-Disclosure Agreements ○ Indian Child Welfare matters including adoptions ○ Discussions with tribal attorney/attorney-client privileged matters ● Secretary of Business Committee duties should include Committee appointment notification; past notifications have come from either Chief or 2nd Chief despite already being in Secretary-Treasurer's duties ● Secretaries of other Committees should work with the Secretary of the Business Committee to furnish Ordinances and other Committee documents including minutes ● Secretary of Business Committee should also be Chairperson for the Enrollment Committee ● Roll call to be done by Secretary of respective Committees 	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special Meeting of the General Council scheduled January 10, 2026 @ 10am ● Possible meeting with Enrollment Committee on January 07, 2026 @ 2pm pending contact with Enrollment Officer 	
	<p>Confirmation of next meeting on January 05, 2026 @ 6pm</p>	
8:30pm	<p>Motion #15 (Jo Lynn/Roberta) – to adjourn meeting - unanimous committee vote, 1 abstention by Yvonne – motion carries</p>	