



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, January 07, 2025	TIME PLACE	3pm CT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Roberta Smith
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Yvonne Perryman	Present – Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Not Present	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present – Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present	Others Present:	<p>Curt Lawrence – Not Present</p> <p>5 General Council Members</p> <p>Incl the following from Enrollment Committee:</p> <p>Rayma Wright</p> <p>Pearlene Chase</p> <p>Joanne Edwards</p> <p>Kathryn Schafer</p>

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
3:14pm	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's special Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.	Roberta
	Approval of Previous Minutes – No minutes approved on 01/07/2026. See minutes of 02/02 for approval of 01/05/2026	Natalie

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two former Secretary-Treasurers who were contacted via phone and email by and through multiple Constitution Committee members did not show up in person or via Zoom 	
	<p>Discussion with Enrollment Committee and former Secretary-Treasurer begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from Enrollment Committee member about fraud and what is meant by it, specifically this question that was sent to them – “Are there consequences for someone who commits fraud in an enrollment application?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution Committee members discuss sanctions and how that was a topic under the 2023-2024 Constitution Advisory Committee and it has been discussed and had language agreed upon by this 2025-2026 Constitution Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Proper showing of financial misconduct may result in the forfeiture of tribal citizen benefits including, but not limited to, monetary claims, tribal tags, and/or tribal administrative or enterprise employment, all subject to a vote of the General Council.” ▪ Differentiation made between fraud committed knowingly or unknowingly and the consequences or lack thereof • Discussion about whether the Enrollment Committee or the General Council makes the final determination on enrollment in the Nation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Historically, the General Council has determined enrollment when there have been individual disenrollment issues ○ Any enrollment decisions made at a meeting of the General Council do require due process including but not limited to notice, being present at a hearing, opportunity to present evidence, standards and procedures need to be written • “Are there specific issues that the current Constitution 	

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	<p>is unable to resolve?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most enrollment-related issues were resolved with the 2023 amendments to Article III – Membership of the Nation per Enrollment Committee members present ○ Multiple Enrollment Committee meetings and members have identified enrollment skipping generations as an issue despite 2023 amendment ○ Attorney for the Nation has advised that as long as birth certificates are documented back to someone on the 1937 roll then enrollment can skip generations if eligibility is documented ○ Unenrolled Indian children of tribal members who are in state custody after ICWA (post-1978) should have access to their records (if grown ● Reading through draft purposes of the Enrollment Committee provided to everyone present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To examine and verify all enrollment applications and documents, determine accuracy and sufficiency of research as presented, and to request additional information as necessary for enrollment applications. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This section is about verification of documentation and needs to contain a provision for the verification of eligibility of enrollment ▪ The Enrollment Committee should also oversee the Enrollment Ordinance where further policy and procedures should be outlined as necessary, this Ordinance has been changed ○ To aid the designated tribal agent for Indian child welfare with the verification of eligibility and/or application for potential enrollment of a Seneca-Cayuga child in state custody ○ To maintain the right to privacy and confidentiality of tribal members and their enrollment files. ● Enrollment process 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When the Enrollment Committee verifies someone’s eligibility of enrollment then their application is processed by the Enrollment Officer and the Secretary-Treasurer makes a Business Committee Resolution to that effect ○ Constitution Committee member brings up reading the names of new tribal members to members at the Annual Meeting of the General Council and how it’s been pointed to as a source of pride for tribal members; right to privacy with minor tribal children mentioned, ultimately publicizing the names at a meeting whether spoken or written is subject to an Enrollment Ordinance 	
	<p>All General Council members present are asked about their opinions on a Secretary-Treasurer split</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Former Secretary-Treasurer Joan Edwards speaks to their tenure as Secretary-Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doing both positions in the early 2000s was like a part-time job, at the time we had a bingo hall and had just started the tobacco factory ○ Commuting from Tulsa a couple days a week ○ Salary for that position at \$75.00/mo ○ One Business Committee meeting a month ○ Regular duties including writing checks, the receptionist took care of the mail and some other Secretary duties ● Should a Secretary position handle submitting Committee payroll? Those present generally agree that yes that would be an appropriate duty 	
	<p>Special Meeting of the General Council scheduled for 01/20/2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enrollment Committee states they will be present at 8am as they are checking people in 	
	<p>Return to discussion on splitting the Secretary-Treasurer position – items organized by subject matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Former Secretary-Treasurer’s term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Audits were done with company in Tulsa 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financials provided at monthly meetings ○ Former Secretary-Treasurer says the position was about management, following up on what needs to be done ○ Didn't have records requests really, slower-paced at that time ○ Took meeting minutes in shorthand ○ No Tax Commission at that time ● Question for the group – What qualifications would you like to see in a Secretary or a Treasurer? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background in financial information ○ Knowing how to get things done ○ Former Secretary-Treasurer brings up writing Resolutions – it was a shock to write them due to their complex legal implications 	
	<p>Confirmation of next meeting on January 19, 2026 @ 6pm</p>	
4:04pm	<p>Motion #17 (Natalie/Jo Lynn) – to adjourn meeting - unanimous committee vote – motion carries</p>	