



# SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

<b>DATE</b>	Monday, March 02, 2026	<b>TIME PLACE</b>	6pm CT Zoom only	<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
<b>Roberta Smith</b>	Present – Zoom	<b>Yvonne Perryman</b>	Present – Zoom
<b>Carrie Kneeland</b>	Present – Zoom	<b>Jo Lynn Gentry</b>	Present – Zoom
<b>Natalie Dixon</b>	Present - Zoom	Others Present:	<b>Curt Lawrence – Present via Zoom 3 General Council Members</b>

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:02pm	<b>Called to Order</b> - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.	Carrie
	<p><b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b> – 1/19, 02/02, and 02/16/2026 minutes not sent out prior to meeting for member review due to not being finished by Secretary of Constitution Committee.</p> <p><b>See 03/30/2026 minutes for changes and approval of 01/19 and 02/02/2026 minutes.</b></p> <p><b>See 4/13/2026 for changes and approval of 02/16/2026, 03/02/2026, and 03/16/2026 minutes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CERTIFICATION</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>On 04/13/2026_ the minutes of 02/16/2026 &amp; 03/02/2026 &amp; 03/16/2026 __ were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on</b></p>	Natalie

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>_04/16/2026_.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">/s/Natalie Dixon</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attest:</b> _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natalie Dixon, Secretary</b></p>	
	<p><b>Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Roll Call</li> <li>ii. No minutes approved</li> <li>iii. Confirmation of next meeting – MAR 16, 2026</li> </ul>	Natalie
--	<p><b>Planned Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housekeeping</li> <li>• Tribal Member Outreach</li> <li>• Numerical system for Constitution amendments</li> <li>• Continue Standing Committees/Structure of Government article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Start at Subcommittees</li> <li>○ Enrollment Committee distinction as a Subcommittee</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review Articles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Duties of Officers</li> <li>○ Qualifications of Officers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Vote on what's ready</li> <li>• Open Forum</li> <li>• Next Constitution meeting 03/16/2026 @ 6pm</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes Begin</b>		
	<p><b>Tribal Member Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No emails, no Facebook comments received</li> <li>• No further information on Secretarial Election matter from weeks prior</li> <li>• Text received from the Nation that the monthly Business Committee meeting is postponed but no Resolution was mentioned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Change of date due to Committee, staff, and enterprise absences for immovable supper</li> <li>○ Changes to monthly Business Committee meetings include a requirement for this to be done by Resolution per By-Laws Article III</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p>Section IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Business Committee members present state the vote to postpone was via text message</li> <li>○ Community-focused events such as wakes and memorial suppers happen on short notice as do emergency situations meaning that putting a timeframe on the change of a monthly meeting may become too restrictive</li> <li>○ Change of monthly meeting date can possibly be outlined in Constitution Article VII Standing Committees/Structure of Government</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Discussion on the presentation of amendments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion regarding the footnotes of amendments that appear in the current Constitution eg Footnotes 1b, 1d, 5g <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Possibly done by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to keep track of the Secretarial Election</li> <li>○ Range of letters used to track Article amendments from A-G, unknown why it would go beyond A-E for 5 amendments</li> <li>○ Curt Lawrence to contact BIA to find out</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Paper presentation of amendments can include either a side-by-side comparison or strikethrough</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Discussion and drafting of articles, discussion is in chronological order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Language of subcommittees for Article VII drafted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Subcommittees.</b> Either the Business Committee or the General Council may establish subcommittees under their respective authorities. Each subcommittee shall be created via Resolution and have a designated purpose, a given timeframe, a budget, and include the membership criteria and selection &amp; replacement process. All subcommittees have the right to information relevant to their work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subcommittees of the Business Committee must include one Business Committee member to be the</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p>subcommittee Chairperson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Executive sessions may be called by any subcommittee only under the most unique of circumstances.</li> <li>• Debate on having alternates for Standing and/or (sub)Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Former Constitution Advisory Committee members could be considered the alternates based on the membership criteria creating the General Council Resolution that created the Constitution Committee</li> <li>○ Ethics Committee did have a vacancy and no pre-set alternates, was by Business Committee appointment</li> <li>○ Alternates may be beneficial for Election or Grievance Committees that must recuse themselves</li> <li>○ Recent vacancy of a General Council member on the Tax Commission, appointed position</li> <li>○ No Housing Committee right now</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Debate on the Business Committee (BC) being the Chairperson for a BC-created subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Would be non-voting position unless in case of tie with Chairperson duties</li> <li>○ Chairperson duties are separate from Chief and must be separate when discussing Standing Committee Chairperson expectations</li> <li>○ BC members chair the former Housing Committee, the Welfare Committee, and the Tax Commission</li> <li>○ Northeastern Tribal Health System Tribal Representative is currently a BC Councilperson</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
7:30pm	<b>Short Break</b>	
7:36pm	<b>Meeting Resumes</b>	
	<p><b>Discussion and drafting of articles, discussion is in chronological order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of a severability clause <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Severability.</b> If any provision of this Constitution or By-Laws shall in the future be</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p>declared invalid, the invalid provision(s) shall be severed, and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate on the process of creating Ordinances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A General Council subcommittee should have the power to draft and present an Ordinance for ratification</li> <li>○ Long-term (sub)Committees are generally make Ordinances</li> <li>○ Subject matter is generally the determining factor for the reasoning behind writing an Ordinance</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drafting of General Council Resolutions section takes place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>General Council Resolutions.</b> General Council Resolutions are passed by a majority vote of the General Council quorum present at any Regular or Special Meeting of the General Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Post-Meeting Documentation.</b> All General Council Resolutions shall be prepared and published within 45 business days of the date of the meeting by the relevant Committee’s Secretary.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Despite numerous requests, Constitution Committee members still have not received or seen a signed copy of the General Council Resolution creating the Constitution Committee</li> <li>• Enrollment Committee is often included in the category of “Standing Committee” but functions differently than other Standing Committees and works more as a subcommittee of the General Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Standing Committee members are elected and appointed by the Business Committee versus ratification of potential Enrollment Committee candidates suggested by the Enrollment Committee</li> <li>○ Drafting of Enrollment Committee language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Enrollment Committee.</b> The Enrollment Committee shall be considered a Standing Committee in name but have a separate membership pool and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">selection process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most Standing Committees have a specific purpose as opposed to the Business Committee which deals with tasks</li> </ul>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Confirmation of next meeting on March 16, 2026 @ 6pm CT</b></p>	
8:08pm	<p><b>Motion #20 (Jo Lynn/Carrie) – to adjourn meeting - split committee vote   Yea: Roberta, Carrie, Jo Lynn, Natalie   Nay: None Abstention: Yvonne – motion carries</b></p>	