



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, April 13, 2026	TIME PLACE	6pm CT Zoom only	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Not Present	Yvonne Perryman	Present – Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present – Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present- Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present - Zoom	Others Present:	Curt Lawrence - Present 2 General Council Members

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:00pm	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – February 16, 2026 minutes corrections reviewed on the record with CC members present where the following corrections were made – minor verb tense changes for grammar, the addition of words (<i>italicized</i>) to be specific - when referring to the <i>Special</i> Election conducted using procedures set in an earlier Election Ordinance, and clarification that all unratified Ordinances to be proposed for approval will be published– minutes APPROVED</p> <p>March 02, 2026 minutes corrections reviewed on the record with CC members present where the following corrections were made – minor verb tense and word changes for grammar, the addition of words (<i>italicized</i>) to be specific –</p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<p>footnotes of amendments <i>that appear in the current Constitution, despite numerous requests</i> Constitution Committee members still have not received or seen– minutes APPROVED</p> <p>March 16, 2026 minutes corrections reviewed on the record with CC members present where the following corrections were made – minor verb tense and word changes for grammar, the addition of words (<i>italicized</i>) to be specific – were ever prepared and completed <i>as these have not produced despite request</i>, changed “4 years” to “remaining term” for clarification, changed “application” to “applicant”, addition of rhetorical question for CC member contemplation <i>Is it sufficient to have verifiable evidence of wrongdoing in addition to criminal conduct?</i> – minutes APPROVED</p> <p>See minutes of 04/27/2026 for corrections and approval of 03/30/2026 minutes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>04/27/2026</u> the minutes of <u>03/30/2026</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>04/29/2026</u>.</p> <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 – FEB 02, MAR 02, & MAR 16, 2026 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – APR 27, 2026 	Natalie
	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Timing of Meetings • Tribal Member Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook ○ Zoom by computer ○ Zoom by phone ○ Email ○ Newsletter Outreach 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oath of Office Administration ○ Membership ○ Qualifications and Disqualifications ○ Other Bodies of Government/Structure ○ Secretary-Treasurer split (Constitution Article V and By-Laws Article I) ○ Duties of Office • Cover Letter for Release • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 04/27/2026 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>During the approval of the minutes relevant discussion included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification that due to the CC Secretary’s delay in producing minutes, all relevant minutes corrections and approvals dates are provided in the Approval for Minutes section for total transparency to interested tribal members • The Constitution Committee’s March 16 minutes were not on the website and were provided on the Facebook group and IT was emailed; discussion turned to Business Committee minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At the monthly meetings the Business Committee (BC) provided minutes and BC Resolutions up until around August 2025 ○ No approved 2024 General Council Meeting Minutes or 2025 General Council Resolutions were provided by the Business Committee at following monthly meetings • No Business Committee Resolution delegating duties was made after the prior Secretary-Treasurer’s resignation in approximately January 2025 – duties were delegated by Chief/via consensus but were not reduced to writing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two Business Committee Councilpeople and a receptionist were responsible for minutes and BC Resolutions, one of those Councilpeople was also on some of the bank accounts 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Business Committee reportedly receiving minutes from the current Secretary-Treasurer, however, they are told they cannot share those minutes (per BC member present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Constitution Committee member present at the monthly BC meeting brings up that the Business Committee had a discussion during the reading of the minutes where a motion to rescind was brought up as not having been recorded on the Secretary-Treasurer’s minutes – motion to rescind was for a BC Resolution pulling from the Tax Commission account to pay for a language and culture event ○ No BC Resolution has been provided to present BC members for this transfer of funds to or from the Tax Commission account as requested and required by tradition and custom. ○ Chief asked the Secretary-Treasurer at the most recent monthly meeting to make the Resolution for the transfer of monies ○ The current Secretary-Treasurer is not referencing BC Resolutions in the minutes either, a break from tradition and custom. ○ Current Secretary-Treasurer is citing Robert’s Rules as the reason for not allowing her to include Resolution references in the minutes. ○ Business Committee meetings are supposed to be recorded but it is unknown who oversees this/has access to the recording ○ At most recent monthly meeting the Secretary-Treasurer stated she could not find the “Capital Improvement Fund” account for the casino after the Casino General Manager (GM) was asked for a balance – the GM stated she did not have access to the account balance and the Secretary-Treasurer stated that the GM does have access to the Capital Improvement Fund account balance, GM was unaware, when the Secretary-Treasurer was asked what the balance of the Capital Improvement Fund was she stated that she could not find the account due to “account reorganization” and could not 	

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	give a balance to the requesting party	
	<p>Tribal Member Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions posted about meetings on the CC Facebook group have been answered • Link to the minutes can be put in the about section of the Facebook group for easier access • Since the BC typically cancels the monthly meeting the Tuesday preceding the Annual Meeting of the General Council, perhaps the CC can use that time and location to host an Open Forum on June 2, 2026 to discuss Constitutional amendment efforts and really dig into them and understand how everything works together – Carrie to email Business Committee for co-ordination/possibility • Cover letter is needed for any future amendment release, Chairperson and Secretary can work on one for approval at next meeting prior to projected release date of April 28, 2026 	
	<p>Review of By-Laws Article II Qualifications of Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of current By-Laws Article II – “not less than 25 years of age, a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and reside within a radius 150 miles in any direction from Bassett Grove Stomp Grounds.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is using the “Stomp Grounds” language mixing politics and culture? ○ Bassett Grove Cemetery is suggested as a replacement • Drafting of language surrounding qualifications of office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All candidates for the Business Committee must, at minimum, have a high school diploma or GED. ○ Addition of “on any Standing Committees” to current Qualifications ○ Candidates for Treasurer must provide verifiable proof of at least 3 years financial education and/or relevant professional qualifications. Conviction of serious financial crimes including but not limited to fraud, 	

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	<p>embezzlement, identity theft, money laundering, larceny, tax evasion, etc, shall disqualify potential candidates from the office of Treasurer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All candidates shall submit a sworn, self-declaration that outlines their qualifications, electoral history including past removals if applicable, and discloses any and all criminal convictions or serious professional events such as a potential candidate's resignation in lieu of prosecution, termination, or suspension from employment due to misconduct. ● Drafting this article included consideration of the following in rough chronological order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Having the base qualifications extend to appointed committees would have limited two members of the Constitution Committee from joining, including a legal professional ○ An “at-large” Business Committee member who lives outside the 150-mile radius to represent the interests of members who live outside the same radius ○ Enlarging the current 150 mile radius ○ Public broadcasts of meetings are possible and would help members stay informed, however open public broadcasting is what the Quapaw are doing and it has been mentioned that state or federal governments having free access to meetings is not beneficial to a Native Nation ○ Current hiring policy for grants for the Nation is understood to be that someone is hireable 7 years after a felony provided the felony was not sexual, violent, or drug-related ○ Voters should have the ultimate say in who they elect – perhaps instead of many specific disqualifications there should be declarations made by the candidate required so voters can make informed selections ○ Treasurers still should not have committed and been convicted of serious financial crimes prior to ○ Background checks are used for personnel 	

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	<p>hiring policies, one Constitution Committee member says they don't believe they should have to give their fingerprints to run for office; background checks also differ depending on the investigating agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-disclosures are a good way to allow for public accountability to past actions 	
	<p>Review of Constitution Article V Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of current Constitution Article V – “The Officers of the Nation shall be the Chief, Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, and four (4) Councilmen who shall be elected by secret ballot.” • Drafting of language for this article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Officers of the Nation shall be the Chief, Second Chief, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Councilpeople who shall be elected by secret ballot. 3e/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Line of Succession. The Nation’s line of succession shall be the Second Chief, then the Secretary. The Secretary shall be a temporary Chair until a Chair pro tem can be elected from the remaining Business Committee members. ▪ Unclear Succession. In the event of a vacancy in any elected or appointed office where there is not a clear line of succession, the duties of that office shall be appropriately delegated as recorded by the relevant Committee until a regular or special election is held within 60 calendar days. • Drafting this article included consideration of the following in rough chronological order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updated the titles of BC members to be non-specific to gender 	
	<p>Review of By-Laws Article I Duties including Oath of Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of language for Oath of Office administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Tuesday following the certification of an election is when the Oath of Office will be 	

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	<p>administered by the Chief, 2nd Chief, or the Chairperson of the Business Committee meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of language for duties for all elected and appointed officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legal Responsibilities. To uphold the Constitution, laws, and By-Laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and to faithfully implement and enforce the legislative enactments and policies of the Nation with care for the next 7 generations. ○ Civil Service. To demonstrate reasonable disposition and judgement, to be truthful, just, and to not take advantage of a citizen’s lack of knowledge on parliamentary law especially by not being more technical or strict than is necessary, to expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members, and to ensure all member inquiries relating to parliamentary procedure or factual information requests are answered in a timely manner; simple requests will consider 10 business days as timely, more complex requests shall be given a specific timeframe in their acknowledgement of receipt. • Drafting this article included consideration of the following in rough chronological order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 generations is a Haudenosaunee cultural concept and continues successively ○ Much of the “Civil Service” section came from Robert’s Rules 	
8:33pm	Committee agrees to short break	
8:39pm	Committee returns from break	
	<p>Review of By-Laws Article I Duties including Oath of Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting of language for duties for all elected and appointed officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fiduciary Duty. To protect and safeguard the assets and financial wellbeing of the Nation, budgets shall be passed prior to the start of the 	

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	<p>next fiscal year with appropriate expenditures that are not inherently wasteful or unnecessarily extravagant; spending may not occur without an adopted budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Duty to Recuse. To recuse themselves from a matter when a motion is made specifically towards the official or their conduct, and/or if a motion, appeal, or other decision on one or more of their following relations is brought forward; including but not limited to a household member or relative by blood or marriage to the second degree, or any commercial entity owned or controlled by the aforementioned parties. Failure to declare a conflict of interest and/or failure to recuse from decision-making shall be considered nepotism and a grounds for Grievance. ○ Duty to Committee. All elected and appointed officials shall volunteer for pro tem duties as needed when vacancies require. It is the duty of the whole Committee and its individual members to see their business through. ● Drafting this article included consideration of the following in rough chronological order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conflicts of interest shall be declared as well as include a recusal or risk Grievance grounds of nepotism 	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No matters brought up in open forum 	
	<p>Confirmation of next meeting on April 27, 2026 @ 6pm CT</p>	
9:05pm	<p>Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus</p>	Carrie