



# SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

| DATE | Monday, May 11, 2026 | TIME PLACE | 6pm CT<br>Zoom only | FACILITATOR | Carrie Kneeland |
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| MEMBERS         |         |                 |                                                                              |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Roberta Smith   | Present | Yvonne Perryman | Present                                                                      |
| Carrie Kneeland | Present | Jo Lynn Gentry  | Present                                                                      |
| Natalie Dixon   | Present | Others Present: | <b>Curt Lawrence – Present via Zoom</b><br><b>10 General Council Members</b> |

| TIME   | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | OWNER   |
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| 6:00pm | <b>Called to Order</b> - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee (CC) meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Carrie  |
|        | <b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b> – April 13, 2026 minutes spoken to, emailed corrections included minor grammatical changes or word additions for clarity such as “Constitution Committee” before “Secretary” and separately “but were not reduced to writing” when discussing the delegation of duties due to prior Secretary-Treasurer vacancy, no additional corrections or amendments were made on the record – <b>minutes APPROVED</b><br><br><b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b> – April 27, 2026 minutes spoken to, emailed corrections included minor grammatical changes and word additions including clarifying the issues with Voter Lists was “distribution process” and the redaction of | Natalie |

| TIME                 | ITEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | OWNER   |
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|                      | <p>names, clarification on the timeline of the Secretary-Treasurer's unanswered documents requests, no other corrections or amendments were made on the record – minutes <b>APPROVED</b></p> <p>See <b>04/27/2026</b> for Certificate of Service of <b>04/13/2026</b> and <b>04/27/2026</b> minutes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CERTIFICATION</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>On <u>08/31/2026</u> the minutes of <u>04/29/2026</u> &amp; <u>05/11/2026</u> &amp; <u>05/25/2026</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>09/09/2026</u>.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attest: <u>                    /s/Natalie Dixon</u></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. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – APR 13 &amp; 27, 2026</li> <li>iii. Confirmation of next meeting – MAY 25, 2026</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Natalie |
| --                   | <p><b>Planned Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housekeeping</li> <li>• Open Forum</li> <li>• Tribal Member Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Next Constitution meeting 05/25/2026 @ 6pm</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |
| <b>Minutes Begin</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |         |
|                      | <p><b>Review of proposed amendments by Constitution Committee with General Council members present</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Council member states that they don't understand everything in the amendments and they have been reading it, states they don't think there is enough time to consider all proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ States there are more words in the proposal than words in the Constitution – <i>CC member replies the original was drafted in 1937.</i></li> <li>○ GC member repeats they have not had enough</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |         |

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|      | <p>time – <i>Different General Council member present replies that whatever is done at the Annual Meeting will not be the final step, there will still be a Secretarial Election.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GC member states that they know there will be a Secretarial Election and how it works and repeats that the General Council has not had enough time to decide what to do or if to make a motion on proposed amendments. – <i>Different CC member states that this is exactly what the General Council requested we do in the 2025 Annual Meeting.</i></li> <li>○ Different GC member acknowledges the history of these amendments dating back to 2023, and says that a mass mailing to tribal members would be beneficial because this is such a big consideration and a limited number of tribal members are willing to engage at the depth needed for as big a change as this</li> <li>● General Council member asks how “biological lineal descendants” improves our Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Biological covers the current perceived loophole where some argue any lineal descendant of a tribal member can enroll, regardless if they are Seneca or Cayuga by blood</li> <li>○ Some argue adult adoptees are also eligible for enrollment, regardless of biological descent, all this is dependent on the Enrollment Committee in place at any given time</li> <li>○ This perceived loophole was created in 2023 when the section was amended by the Business Committee</li> <li>○ Same General Council member states they don’t understand the difference between “biological lineal descendant” and “lineal descendant” - <i>CC member replies that it is related to the change in parentage when a child is adopted. If a non-Seneca-Cayuga child is adopted out of a Seneca-Cayuga family, their birth certificate will be changed to reflect the new parents and complicate any post-adoption</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p><i>enrollment. If a non-Seneca-Cayuga child is adopted by a Seneca-Cayuga family, that child can possibly be enrolled despite not being Seneca-Cayuga by blood</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Council member states they still do not understand the difference that adding “biological” to “lineal descent” makes – <i>different General Council member present states that biological clears up the issues that including “lineal” descent created in 2023, and maybe it would be good to replace lineal with biological</i></li> <li>○ Enrollment Committee has brought this issue to both Constitution Committee and Business Committee, there have been at least 3 relevant cases of this type of issue in Enrollment over the past 18 months</li> <li>○ General Council member states they still do not understand – <i>Constitution Committee person refers them to the Enrollment Committee for further clarification on the issues facing them presently – General Council member continues to ask what “biological lineal descent” means</i></li> <li>○ Different General Council member asks about skipping generations and enrollment and asks if they would be allowed to enroll their child if someone in their line of biological lineal descent was not enrolled Seneca-Cayuga – <i>Constitution Committee members answer yes, regardless of generations skipped in enrollment, if you can prove biological lineal descent to a member on the 1937 roll you are eligible for enrollment, this also includes being eligible if you are enrolled in another Nation and want to enroll Seneca-Cayuga, there is nothing prohibiting dual enrollment in our Nation</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional General Council members present and Constitution Committee agree to review proposed Article V – Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Council member asks how voting works if the Secretary-Treasurer position is split – CC</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p><i>member replies that the additional position created by the split will absorb a Councilperson position and vote, so the number of votes will remain the same, there will just be 3 Councilpeople and 4 named officers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CC member mentions the 60 day requirement for an election for a vacant seat and cites past Secretary-Treasurer vacancy that lasted for several months,</li> <li>• CC Secretary provides update on records request scheduled with the Nation's current Secretary-Treasurer at the May monthly meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request was scheduled for today, 9am, May 11<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled this morning due to "unexpected home repair" that she was required to stay at home for</li> <li>○ Secretary-Treasurer of the Nation did not reply with proposed date for reschedule</li> <li>○ This is the second broken records request date that was cancelled the day-of and no rescheduled date was provided, the CC Secretary had to reschedule both times at the Business Committee's monthly meeting</li> <li>○ Different CC member states that this is not a vacancy issue, this is the issue of someone not doing their job</li> <li>○ General Council member present states this is unacceptable per By-Laws Article I Section 3 Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion on stipends ensues, history of stipends arranged chronologically as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stipends were not original called stipends, started back in 60s and 70s, Chief had a small pay and Secretary-Treasurer only had mileage</li> <li>○ As BIA funding became more available the Chief and Secretary-Treasurer were paid a certain amount which was increased in the 70s and 80s</li> <li>○ When the bingo hall grew, a small amount was given every month for positions</li> <li>○ Monthly amount became a stipend due to IRS rules</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Later administrations in the 2000s started to pay stipend amounts based on political loyalty until the General Council enacted their authority to set the stipends for the Business Committee where we stand today</li> <li>○ Constitution Committee amendments do cite the authority of the General Council to set stipends for all Business Committee members in the proposed Constitution “Article VII Section 2 Legislative Hierarchy – General Council Resolution”</li> <li>○ This is backed up by the Corporate Charter, Corporate Powers Section 3(d) “To appoint such subordinate officers and agents as the business of the Tribe may require, and to allow them suitable compensation.”</li> <li>● Discussion on the Secretary-Treasurer split ensues – some General Council members present are against the split <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution Committee members discuss reasons why the split is supported after research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prior Secretary-Treasurers including Kim Guyett, Joanne Edwards, Sarah Sue Channing, JR Birkes all agreed that a split in the position is needed, whether in personal discussion with CC members or in discussions with the Enrollment Committee</li> <li>▪ During the last Secretary-Treasurer vacancy, 3 people. 2 Business Committee members and a full-time employee, did the Secretary portion of the job, the Treasurer portion was overseen by the Accounting Department of approximately 3-4 people</li> <li>▪ As a multi-million dollar corporation, our Accounting Oversight and our Document Oversight should probably not be the same person</li> <li>▪ Currently no one can get access to documents with the Secretary-Treasurer</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>currently in place, when all General Council members have the same rights to review documents of the Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If we get much more funding than we have now, we will be hitting a ceiling on the capacity of any given Secretary-Treasurer who is responsible for all documents of the Nation as well as all funds of the Nation, this was seen when the Nation had to hire an outside company to manage COVID funds</li> <li>• Discussion continues over proposed Constitution Article VII Section 1, Other Bodies of Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Council member brings up that until 10 years ago or so, Election Committee members were elected by the General Council – issues with the Election Committee being made political also brought a CFR Court case forward, currently through the Election Ordinance the Business Committee appoints an Election Committee instead of running an election for their positions</li> <li>○ Different General Council member present asks why divorcing the Annual Meeting and the election process is necessary – <i>CC member and General Council member explain a prior issue in the 2000s where a former Chief stated there would be no Annual Meeting that year due to safety concerns and the election that year was unable to take place. Even if there was a rogue Business Committee, the requirements for an election to be held independent of the Annual Meeting include having published notice of that election at least 60 days prior to the date, provided this is an elected Election Committee, giving the General Council notice through 2 physical postings and 2 digital postings as required in proposed Constitution amendment Article VII Section 2 Legislative Hierarchy</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion ensues surrounding the lack of ethical protections in current Constitution – proposed Oath of Office in By-Laws Section I is reviewed with standards</li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>of behavior set out for all elected officials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All elected and appointed officials would take this Oath of Office, have a signed written copy filed with the Secretary of the Nation, and then it would allow a Grievance to address improper behavior/ethical concerns with all elected and appointed officials</li> <li>○ Prior Grievances have been unable to address ethical concerns because there are no written standards of behavior for any elected officials in our governing documents</li> <li>○ More due process is included in the proposed amendments for the Grievance Committee's standards of operation, including timelines, evidentiary standards, public findings, and expanded grounds for Grievances</li> <li>○ Nepotism as a grounds for Grievance is discussed – if a motion is made towards someone or there is a vote or other decision including a household member or close relative by blood or marriage to the second degree, or any commercial entity overseen by them, then an official is required to state their relationship and recuse themselves from voting or deciding on the matter at hand – General Council member asks what happens if someone has to recuse but chooses not to, CC member relies that it will be up to the given Committee that person is on to deal with it and possibly sanction that official as a Committee, this is a voluntary recusal but refusal to recuse does open the official up to being subject to a Grievance, this is backed up by roll call voting which shows how each Committee member votes</li> <li>● General Council member asks if there has been a professional legal review of these amendments to shore up any loopholes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CC member responds that there were 2 attorneys on the original Constitution Advisory Committee and one attorney currently on the Constitution Committee, but there has been no</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>contracted labor for outside legal review, as we would require 3 bids in the procurement process due to the amount of funding needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Council member brings up state and federal laws and should following them be included in proposed By-Laws Section I Duties of All Elected and Appointed Officials, discussion ensues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Different General Council member brings up that Constitution Article XII Bill of Rights states that nothing in our Constitution can violate peoples' rights of the US Constitution</li> <li>○ Original member mentions the casino, and requirements to adhere to federal laws there – CC member brings up the tobacco factory and ongoing settlements with multiple state governments as well as the federal government for breaking their laws when selling cigarettes in the early-mid 2000s</li> <li>○ Third General Council member asks if we are a sovereign nation or not</li> <li>○ Different CC member replies that named Business Committee officers having employee benefits are not in accordance with federal tax law <a href="#">Revenue Ruling 59-354</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">General Council Resolution 009-060323</a> includes 14% fringe benefits for named officers for insurance and 401(k) purposes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General Council member asks about grounds for Grievances and cites amendment “habitual drunkenness” and seeing an official outside of offices drinking alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CC member responds that this grounds for Grievance came from the Grievance Ordinance</li> <li>○ Different CC member states this would be for any official who is drunk during business done in their official capacity, whether meetings, votes, time spent at the offices, etc.</li> <li>○ Original asking General Council member mentions that the language is broad as written, in part because an elected official is in their elected position all the time and having a beer</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>at the casino can result in a Grievance possibly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Additional General Council member mentions that drunkenness is subjective, evidence of habitual drunkenness such as DUI can be further proof of habitual drunkenness</li> <li>○ CC members discuss the burden of proof needed for a Grievance requires more serious evidence than he-said, she-said, things such as credit card receipts or videos are needed for proving such an accusation, General Council member adds that being cutoff from buying alcohol at the casino bar would be proof, CC member mentions something like that may result in an incident report filed by the Gaming Commission</li> <li>• General Council member asks about an Inspector General type position in relation to Grievances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CC member states this is outside the scope of what we currently have for the Grievance amendments</li> <li>○ Different CC member states we need a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance/Office (TERO) person because an Inspector General would still be subject to the whims of the Business Committee for employment, so including an Inspector General position without a TERO position may still create political issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CC member brings up amendment provision that provides the Grievance Committee with subpoena powers, and having those subpoena powers be potentially used for conditional Grievances – eg. If the subpoenaed evidence supports grounds for a Grievance as filed then it moves forward, but if the subpoenaed evidence does not support grounds for Grievance then the Grievance does not move forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Council member asks about a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) vehicle for document requests instead – CC member replies that if we can't get documents from a Secretary-Treasurer now, then why would they be produced under a FOIA?</li> <li>○ General Council member states that sanctions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>can be written into FOIA legislation and be immediately triggered when violated – CC member responds that sanctions are tied to due process in our Constitution, immediate sanctioning is just not possible and if there is this much trouble with passing Constitution and By-Laws amendments then FOIA legislation will be impossible, and the current amendments propose certain types of sanctions to pass via majority vote of the General Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Council member states that the Corporate Charter governs the Constitution – different General Council member states that the Corporate Charter must follow the Constitution – CC member asks we not have this debate here now</li> <li>○ CC member brings up previously referenced Corporate Charter Corporate Powers Section 3(q) on sanctioning of tribal members – “To impose penalties on members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe for violation of the corporate by-laws or ordinances, not exceeding in any case \$100.00 for any one offense, or in the alternative, expulsion from the Tribe or suspension of voting rights therein.”</li> <li>○ General Council member mentions that aforementioned Section 3(q) was used and subsequently taken to CFR Court on interpretation – CC member responds that we are strengthening that process by clarifying that major sanctions need due process and are subject to General Council votes only</li> <li>○ General Council member present states they remember going through a decade of court cases in the 2000s and remembers seeing General Council Resolutions always being governing law – CC member responds that having it in the Constitution codifies that so it doesn’t have to be proven further in court</li> <li>● CC member reviews Enrollment Committee purposes and duties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Different CC member speaks up during</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>Enrollment Committee duties to aid children in state custody with Seneca-Cayuga Nation enrollment – states they appreciate having more duties to our tribal children outlined in our Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Original CC member acknowledges present General Council member who helped draft this section with their relevant experiences</li> <li>○ Voter List creation and redaction is covered by the Enrollment Committee, and then distributed by them to the Election Committee</li> <li>○ Current election is plagued by issues with voter lists, there were 3 different voter lists, the current Voter List contains names and addresses and does not contain an opt out process, this is a safety concern for those with protective orders, it can be abused by nosy people or those who want to sell the connected names and addresses to businesses</li> <li>○ General Council member present asks if that will conflict with prior General Council Resolution that mandated names and addresses on the Voter List – CC member responds that the Savings Clause included in proposed Constitution amendment Article VII Section 2 Legislative Hierarchy would allow for the General Council to address any grandfathered-in General Council Resolutions that do come in conflict with proposed amendments</li> <li>○ Clarification that the current Enrollment Ordinance allows for the Business Committee to close the rolls, this is a common action in cases of per capita payments or in our case need for COVID funding distributions, Constitution amendment includes clarification that the Business Committee can ask the Enrollment Committee to close the rolls temporarily and the General Council is the authority for long term roll closures</li> <li>○ Enrollment authority lies with the Enrollment Committee, who is the first step in the</li> </ul> |       |

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|      | <p>appellate process, they explain why someone was denied and can reconsider the application, and then the General Council becomes the final appellate authority on whether the application for enrollment is approved, the case being put forward by the Enrollment Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Historically our new enrollees were approved by the General Council, this changed around 2023 because it was negatively effecting tribal members who were approved by the Enrollment Committee but not the General Council from accessing Indian Health Services and other tribal member benefits</li> <li>• CC member begins reviewing Tax Commission section of proposed Constitution amendment Article VII <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Council member points out that currently there is nothing addressing the spending of Tax Commission monies – CC member states that amendments contain provision for Tax Commission monies to be utilized to finance tribal government operations, programs, and services</li> <li>○ CC member identifies recent real life issue that would have been addressed better with amendments that have documentation requirements for money transfers from the Tax Commission – at the recent April monthly meeting the Business Committee members discussed money that had been pulled from the Tax Commission to fund the language and culture trip that was instead covered by a CCDF grant and had to be transferred back to the Tax Commission, but it was unclear if all the corresponding Business Committee Resolutions had been made</li> <li>○ General Council member asks if the Tax Commission has an ordinance – CC member responds that yes they do, it was passed in 1985 originally but there have been amendments – General Council member then asks why put it in the Constitution if is governed by an ordinance – CC member responds that</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |       |

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|        | any given Business Committee can change the rules for taxation of tribal enterprises, or as has happened in the past, the tobacco factory refused to pay a tax and the ordinance was used to enforce taxation, inclusion in the Constitution would guarantee jurisdiction for all cases of taxation |       |
|        | <b>Confirmation of next meeting on May 25, 2026 @ 6pm</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |       |
| 8:51pm | <b>Motion #24 (Jo Lynn/Roberta) – to adjourn meeting - unanimous committee vote of 4 remaining members including Carrie, Roberta, Natalie, and Jo Lynn– motion carries</b>                                                                                                                          |       |