



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, May 25, 2026	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 5 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
	Approval of Previous Minutes – April 29, 2026 minutes spoken to, corrections made via email include minor changes to grammar and word additions such as "members" to a section so it reads "Committee members present agree," clarification made regarding the termination of the Grievance process before the hearing before the General Council due to the Secretary-Treasurer office's vacancy last year, no other amendments made to the record – minutes APPROVED Approval of Previous Minutes – May 11, 2026 minutes spoken to, corrections made via email include clarification that the current enrollment loophole for adoptees is perceived and has not been tested, changes to sentence grammar and words for clearer reading including the change from “call out” to	Natalie

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	“acknowledge” and the deletion of minor words such as “a” and the addition of minor words such as “for” and larger sentence fragments such as “whether the application for enrollment is approved.” on page 13 – minutes APPROVED Approval of Previous Minutes – May 25, 2026 minutes spoken to, corrections made via email include clarification of events when the Chief did Secretary-Treasurer duties when providing previously requested General Council Resolutions to the Constitution Committee after they were not produced by the Secretary-Treasurer, other minor corrections include the addition of words like "owed" or changes in grammar such "across" to "the sales crossed" when discussing tobacco fines, no other amendments to the record – minutes APPROVED Minutes were approved together at the 08/31/2026 meeting and finalized by Natalie Dixon, who stepped down as Secretary for the Constitution Committee effective 06/22/2026. The new Secretary elected on that date is Jo Lynn Gentry. <u>CERTIFICATION</u> On _08/31/2026_ the minutes of __04/29/2026 & 05/11/2026 & 05/25/2026__ were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on _09/09/2026_. /s/Natalie Dixon Attest: _____ Natalie Dixon, Secretary	
	Housekeeping i. Roll Call ii. Confirmation of next meeting – JUN 02, 2026	Natalie
--	Planned Agenda • Housekeeping • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 06/02/2026 @ 4pm	
Minutes Begin		

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	Motion #25 (Carrie/Roberta) – to limit questions in 06/02 meeting to 3 minutes - unanimous committee vote – motion carries	
	Tribal Member Q&A Open Forum including continued review of proposed amendments starting at proposed Constitution Article VII Section 2 Legislative Hierarchy when there are no questions • Several other tribes are petitioning the BIA to amend their Constitutions and take off the approvals required from the Secretary of the Interior – why has the Seneca-Cayuga Nation not done this? ○ Federal grant money stops being disbursed for tribes that take out the approval provisions in their Constitutions, a level of self-sufficiency is required ○ The Seneca-Cayuga Nation is neither self-sufficient nor able to forego current federal grant funding ○ Rests on the idea of plenary power, that Native Nations are subject to United States federal government authority • Savings Clause explained, new legislation that may conflict with previously passed legislation invalidates only the conflicting portions –e.g. if we already had a savings clause included, then prior issues with conflicting General Council Resolutions would not be an issue • Reservation of Powers for the General Council is already written into the corporate charter • Question asked about Draft Ordinances and if publishing them includes meaning online – answer is yes, publishing can mean online provided it is publicly accessible • Discussion surrounding the Clerk of General Council Resolutions – the majority of General Council Resolutions would be done by the Business Committee Secretary but for Special Meetings of the General Council presided over by the Grievance Committee could result in the Clerk of the Grievance Committee creating and signing a General Council Resolution	

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	• Question about 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Council and if the General Council Resolutions were made despite there being no Secretary-Treasurer in office – Secretary of Constitution Committee states that yes General Council Resolutions were proposed and passed, however despite repeated requests to the Secretary-Treasurer they were not provided to the Constitution Committee, finally the Chief did the Secretary-Treasurer’s duty and scheduled an appointment and provided duplicated copies of the General Council Resolutions from 2025 • Question asked if the publishing 45 days prior applies to General Council Resolutions – Response is that 45 days published only applies to drafted General Council Ordinances, not all General Council Resolutions • Discussion about proposed Constitution Article VII Section 2 under Powers of the General Council #4 ○ The power of the General Council to prescribe operations to the Business Committee is subjective to any given member of the General Council – CC member replies that its up to the General Council if they want to address a matter, historical examples of this power include shutting down a convenience store, paying off a loan, enlarging the tribal administration accounting department, requiring Business Committee members to be on camera for voting ○ Issues with tobacco noted in operation by present Business Committee member – CC member replies that the General Council hypothetically could shut the tobacco factory down if they so wish ○ Tobacco factory did incur multiple fines for unauthorized sales dating to the early 2000s, the sales crossed multiple state lines, resulting in ATF fines and payment plans owed to the states including \$600,000 that is due in 2030 for 2003-2005 sales in Tennessee • Question about proposed Constitution Article VII Section 2 under Powers of the General Council #9 and if it would require a General Council Resolution to	

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	purchase land – Response that no it would not require a General Council Resolution to buy land, only sell it, though buying land would require a Business Committee Resolution • Question about proposed Constitution Article VII Section 2 under Powers of the Business Committee, specifically asking if a Business Committee Resolution delegating duties after a proper showing of misconduct happens before a meeting of the General Council – Response is that yes this would happen after the proper showing of misconduct is made by the Grievance Committee, before a removal hearing in front of the General Council, similar to a recent Grievance where a proper showing of misconduct was made and certain duties were delegated via Business Committee Resolution, causing the resignation of the accused prior to a removal hearing in front of the General Council • Discussion about proposed By-Laws Article II Section 1 Duties of All Elected subsection ○ Question about Robert’s Rules and if the Chairperson is allowed to engage in discussion on motions ○ CC member states that for Robert’s Rules small committees the Chairperson may engage in discussion including questions and making motions provided they remain fair and neutral, recognize everyone equally, and avoid dominating discussion	
	Constitution Committee finishes review of proposed amendments and continues open forum • General Council member states they need to keep going over the document but says they like that a lot of these things are shored up, they would like to compare the amendments to the rest of the Constitution as well as the Corporate Charter • General Council member continues that recent changes proposed to the Grievance Ordinance may conflict with these amendments, more reading comparisons must be made	

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	• Possible December meeting for reviewing these amendments as well as possibly Grievance Ordinance – however there is not a guarantee this meeting will happen without member or Business Committee support • Past General Councils have tried to direct that a Special Meeting happen, much if not all of the legislation passed during that meeting was eventually rescinded and this matter did go to CFR Court • Historical issue during 1990s did include a newspaper ad being placed for a General Council meeting that was called, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs sent a letter requiring the person to post notice be the Secretary-Treasurer and the Chief's duties include calling the meeting which did not happen at this time • No further questions asked on proposed amendments	
	Constitution Committee begins addressing other Committee matters including planning June 2nd, 2026 meeting in the HR Building • Confirmation that June 2nd meeting starts at 4pm • Poll of members continuing with Committee taken – there will be one vacancy after 2026 Annual Meeting it's possible there will be 2 depending on election results • Must talk with the Grievance Committee about their Ordinance – email available on the website • Transition to new Secretary of Constitution Committee will include continuation of Google Docs access, relay of all relevant information for systems used (e.g. Zoom, emails, passwords, contacts, minutes template, etc.) • Menu for June 2nd meeting to be bottled water and tea, nut snack mixes • Moving forward could look like many things including getting 3 bids for attorney review, having each amendment approved by General Council Resolution, more community discussion before a decision etc.	
	Confirmation of next meeting on June 2nd, 2026 @ 4pm Central at the HR Building	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
8:39pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	