



OCCANEECHI BAND OF THE SAPONI NATION, INC.

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Physical Location: 4902 Daily Store Road – Burlington, NC 27217

Meeting Minutes

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation meeting was held in person on Sept. 12th, 2024. Tony Hayes, Tribal Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Vickie Jeffries, Tribal Administrator, conducted the roll call; Tony Hayes, Chair; Brice Watkins, Vice Chair; Beverly Payne, Tribal Council; and Tammy Hayes-Hill.

Tribal Members Present: Benita Rayner, Corey Roberts, Crystal Cavalier Keck, Dante Bowman, and Tramaine Bowman.

Guests: Jacob Irby and Jason Keck.

Prayer: Brice Watkins.

Minutes approved as read without corrections. Brice Watkins motioned, and Tammy Hayes-Hill seconded.

Administrative Reports

Old Business/Follow-up: Vickie Jeffries. Preservation Award. October 16, 2024, 5:30-8:30 PM Rocky Mount NC.

Beverly and Brice will attend. Details were sent by Amanda Boyd to the Tribal Council on 9/11/2024. BW and BP confirmed their attendance. BP asked about the cost of paying attendees, and VJ asked BP to follow up on the cost of tickets.

Executive Reports Chairperson's Report: Tony Hayes

Legislature

TH attended the Annual meeting held in Pembroke at Lumber River Electric. No budget items have been approved this year. Several requests for the tribes will be part of the new budget for 2025. The commission is asking for new items by mid-November. 400K asked for the Tribal Youth program. Lumbee is interested in putting land in trust with the state. Other tribes will review the land trust option. Kerry Byrd talked about the marker program. All but one tribe has a marker. Forest Hazel will keep us updated. The cultural committee is working on Cedar Point's situation and working with the state and tribes to move forward.

A program is being worked on to get 2.5 million dollars in health issue data funding for supported data. The goal is to break down barriers and eliminate categorizing Indians as “other,” which will occur in the 2025 census.

When meeting in person, go back to “In-Person” meeting rules of order. Open discussion time at end of meetings, 3 minutes. Any questions to the council should be sent to VJ before the Tribal Council meeting for prep to answer accurately.

Commission

Honored the passing of Tribal leader and other community member.

NCAI is coming up in November in Las Vegas. Try to send a big contingency and will let the Tribal Council know about funding opportunities.

MVP Southgate (Mountain Valley Pipeline)

A conversation with Desiree Cureton reviewed various modifications. Desiree wanted to know if OBSN wanted to be a consultant, and TH verified yes because we are the closest tribe to the pipeline. Tony shared vital items from Desiree’s email.

1. Evolved because of efficiencies and protest, the length was reduced from 31 miles to 26 miles, VA 26 miles, and will cross in NC—the pipeline decreased to 30 miles.
2. More casing on the pipeline.
3. Discussed safety details.
4. Will have a public meeting.
5. Half the size.

Eliminated rivers and wetlands and will be in Rockingham County. Still closest in proximity. OBSN will be engaged. Not sure of how many rivers and wetlands I will find out.

BP asked what towns in Rockingham TH responded to, closest to Eden. TH will email BP a copy of the email.

Tribal Administrator: Vickie Jeffries

Budget Review

There are no notable items to report.

Ground Sign (Daily Store Road/Sign Tribal Center

The price is \$8000-\$10,000. We need permits, so we will go in a different direction to replace the sign with more cost-effective options.

Powwow 2024 Update

Billboard is up at exit 147 (85/40) and posted on the website. Receiving compliments on the billboard.

Graveling is completed.

It will solve the drainage problem.

BCBS Foundation Visit September 25, 2024

The Tribal Council has been advised that the time will be 10 am-3 pm.

Health Equity Funding Grant (\$18,000)

Healthy opportunities. ADA compliance was discussed. BP asked about paving. VJ responded that paving is too costly and will explore different ramp designs. TH stated that there is insufficient funding to start a building project and suggested focusing on medical upgrades. Mobility impairment is more

supportive of accessibility items such as ramps. We will get the best materials. BP suggested making entrances wide enough for wheelchairs.

BW motioned to apply for the Health Equity Grant. Seconded by BP. Motion carried.

History Harvest (Emily Moser/Elon – 9/28 – Snow Camp)

Digitize newspaper clippings and any documents. OBSN has 20-year-old newspaper clippings that will be digitized and acid-free sleeves to preserve them. BP asked if the original clippings would be kept in the acid-free sleeves for preservation, and VJ confirmed yes. BP has clippings at home, and VJ will compare them for duplicates.

Periclean Scholars Class of 2028 (Elon)

Read announcement. An application email was sent out to Elon Student Life Staff for distribution to students.

Corey Roberts – Explained past experiences and benefits of the Periclean program, such as help with grant writing, providing video materials for different groups, and the Periclean scholars who have worked in Sri Lanka and India. Advertised to attract students for help for the most pressing needs of the Tribe. If you have any questions, reach out to Corey Roberts.

Corey reported that he will be teaching an OBSN language course during Elon’s Winter Term (3 weeks in January). Charge \$20 per person for the Winter Term course to be paid to the tribal government. Hybrid class, in-person, and Zoon. 3 weeks, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week. Only 3 absences are allowed. Encouraged Occaneechi members to participate. More details to follow. TH suggested supporting the effort, important work, and full house would be great! VJ, TH, and THH agreed to the charge of \$20, and VJ will put a line item on the budget, and there are donations for the Language Revitalization. BP – suggested no charge to increase participation. TH responded charging for the class gives more credibility and value to the experience.

Cultural Workshops November

There will be no September and October workshops. I am working on November workshops for Native American Month. VJ will share updates.

Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration Sat, November 23, 2024. (Corey

TH reported that the Museum of History will be closed for upgrades. The event will be held outside in the mall area for one day. VJ—Corey Roberts and Gianni will be participating with a Language Revitalization table set up. They are moving away from Food Ways.

Alamance Chamber of Commerce Visit

Annual visit on 9/26 at 1:30 pm – Sharn will present.

Website Manager: Tammy Hayes-Hill.

Website sales for July & August total \$327.15
\$45.60 was sold at the Tribal Center.

Standing Committees

Membership Committee, Vickie Jeffries

An in-person meeting was held on August 29. The minutes were sent to the tribal council prior. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2024. Five applications were received and reviewed.

Heritage Cultural Committee, Forest Hazel Heritage Commission Meeting.

No updates.

OYA (Youth Ambassadors Program): Gianni Lacey-Howard.

OYA activities have been paused until January.

Other Business

Other Business, not on the agenda: Beverly Payne

Hillsborough Village

Pictures in Kiosks and Powwow flyers, printed-out copies of Powwow flyers, and placed all over Hillsborough.

Renee Price requested a bench at the Village in honor of John Blackfeather and Lynette Jeffries. VJ reported an email on September 12th from Renee Price to have a meeting on September 18th to form a committee. TH suggested reviewing the email to ensure instructions are followed. BP described a new bench on a cement block in which the plaque will be placed and not on the old bench. VJ asked to see the plaque. VJ suggested that Vivette be on the committee.

Gallery Discussion

Floor open for discussion/comments from meeting attendees: No discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

There is no meeting scheduled for October. The next meeting is via Zoom on November 14th, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Submitted by Tammy Hayes-Hill