



# **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 via Zoom on November 14, 2024. Tony Hayes, Tribal Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 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: Phoenix Qayum, Gianni Lacy Howard, Wanda Penner, Angela, and Shadow Martin

Prayer: Brice Watkins.

Approval of the November 14, 2024, agenda: Action: Motion made seconded and carried,

Approval of minutes from September 2024. Minutes approved as read without corrections. Motion made and accepted.

## **Tribal Governance Reports**

### **Chairman: Tony Hayes: Legislature/NCAI/ Indian Country Report**

#### **NCAI**

NCAI met two weeks ago, and there are fourteen state tribes from the southeast region membership in discussion.

#### **Commission**

Meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>, location TBD. On the agenda is a discussion regarding (CDC) community organization for various funding for tribes east of the Mississippi. Modeled after the past organization North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative (NCIEDI). Putting together a corporate group for relationships and partnerships with various businesses to promote Indian businesses.

The election's impact on the commission was discussed at the Commission meeting, as there are new governor and cabinet changes. The agenda for 2025 was put together because items were not addressed in the 2024, short session of NC General Assembly.

### **Tribal Administrator: Vickie Jeffries**

#### **Treasurer Report**

Budget Review September/October: There were regular expenses in September, no meeting in October, and no outstanding items to note.

## **Correspondence/Powwow/Tribal Enrollment/Grants/Donations. Powwow**

The Powwow was very successful, with a record number of dancers attending and a donation of an Eagle Staff for the OBSN.

### **Donations**

The October budget reflected no outstanding items. However, tribal citizens and non-tribal members' auto payments to PayPal and monthly donations increased.

### **Membership Commission**

The Membership Commission Committee met on November 12, 2024, and reviewed five applications. One new applicant was approved for enrollment, and four applications required additional information.

### **Grants**

Merck Pharmaceuticals will sponsor the Heart Healthy Bingo on November 16, 2024.  
Upcoming Activities/Wellness Social 11/16/2024 11:30-3:00.

North Carolina Museum of History 11/23/2024: Corey, Gianni, and Shadow will set up a language table instead of presenting Foodways as OBSN has traditionally done. The Museum is undergoing renovation, and the event will be scaled down. It will occur at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC).

Tribal Center holiday hours: The Tribal Center will be open the first two weeks (12/3-12/13/24) and reopen in January at a date to be announced. Phone calls and emails will be monitored daily. THH will post on the website.

## **New Business**

### **Added to Agenda: (Scouting America) Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow**

Scouting America Boy Scout lodges must have a written agreement with a state or federally-recognized tribe for ceremonial events or comments on the appropriateness of regalia. VJ will have a phone meeting with Lucas Neas and another Ken Shabazz for additional information. After January 1, 2026, Scouting America Boy Scout lodges cannot conduct any Native American programs if they do not have a written agreement. John Blackfeather was hugely involved and part of the legacy of the Boy Scout ceremonies.

### **Website Manager Report: Tammy Hayes-Hill (Detailed report sent previously to tribal council).**

September \$196.30 sales.

October sales \$3072.00.

Gratis for BCBS Foundation 27 Tumblers, 7 Occaneechi T-shirts to staff.

Possible pop-up sales in December once new inventory is received.

### **OYA Ambassador Report: Chair Gianni Lacey-Howard: NVR Grant.**

OYA received a grant for Native Voices Rising. NVR is a collaborative grant-making organization that has granted over 9 million dollars to Indian organizations and communities. The OYA advisory council's new name is "ACOYA" (Advisory Council Occaneechi Youth Ambassadors).

**New Business:**

**Beverly Payne: Hillsborough Reconstructed Village Programming.**

There have been school visits from Durham County and Chapel Hill to the reconstructed Hillsborough Village. Beverly requested the council to hang the Minnette Duffy Preservation Award plaque at the Alliance in Hillsborough because it was for the OBSN Hillsborough Village. There was also a monetary award of \$500.00 that Beverly would like to be deposited into the OBSN Village in Hillsborough account for any needed materials. The Alliance receives a grant of \$10,000 yearly for the preservation of the village.

Suggested Revolutionary War Day to be held on April 25, 2025. A representative from Preservation North Carolina (PNC) asks to partner with the tribe. Have Occaneechi artists set up tables at the Hillsborough village and a table to sell OBSN merchandise. Jim Herrington was hired to photograph events at the Hillsborough Village, and there is a kiosk with photographs taken by Jim. Beverly requested a way-finding sign to direct people to Margaret Lane and will have to work with the county for approval before a sign can be erected. On the second Monday of October (every year), the village should have an event to replace Columbus Day (Indigenous People's Day).

**Vickie Jeffries:** American Indian History Advisory Committee: VJ was asked to sit on this newly formed committee. This committee will review the new exhibits and share perspectives and expertise with the NC Museum of History staff as they weigh decisions about what stories and content to include in new and refreshed exhibits.

**Corey Roberts:** Yesanechi Language Revitalization Updates. There are enough Elon Students for the Winter and Spring Terms' language classes. The fee is \$20.00, which will be paid to the tribe. More information will be provided on enrollment for the Winter and Spring semesters. The classes are available via Zoom and in person.

No Meeting in December. The next meeting is January 9, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment at 8:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hayes-Hill