

NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE
Tribal Body Zoom Call Meeting
October 30, 2021

Council on Call: Chief Sachem, Anthony Dean Stanton, First Councilman, Cassius Spears, Jr., Second Councilman, Michael Monroe, Sr., Yvonne Lamphere, John Mahoney, Heather Mars-Martins, John Pompey, Keith Sampson

Absent: Lonny Brown, Ray Lamphere

Also on Call: Tribal Secretary, Betty Johnson; Assistant Tribal Secretary, Monica Stanton

Chief Sachem gave Traditional Words and a silent moment of prayer for those Tribal members who are ill or are deceased.

Councilwoman Mars-Martins gave a Spiritual Prayer.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. thanked everyone for joining the meeting and that hopefully moving forward it will be smoother.

Regarding the Tribal Election Committee vacancies, there are three seats up and explained the process. Stated that this meeting is informational; the TEC is unable to meet and why vacancies are going beyond their term. Next month will accept nominations and the month after will vote on nominations to fill seats.

Looking at possibly February or March for the 3 Tribal Council seats up for election.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said it is critical for us to have elections. The election will be in person voting and the plan right now may/could change depending on COVID-19 situation.

It was stated that those nominated at the next meeting need to be present to accept the nomination.

Chief Sachem Stanton further explained the process and that getting the TEC on board to move the election process forward smoothly.

Old Business:

Chief Sachem Stanton gave Great Swamp update and how the State of RI agreed to turn the land over to the Tribe. He apologized for not notifying the Tribe about what happened and stated this was a tremendous victory and thanked all that helped.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. commented on Great Swamp and the importance for the Tribe and the connection to our ancestors and for the future of our people.

Chief Sachem Stanton said trying to complete the 2020 audit sometime in November or December.

Chief Sachem Stanton apologized for the power outages from the last storm and that the Administration had to shut down because of it.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said Tribe is maintaining national presence at NCAI and USET making sure funding is used appropriately. Tribal Government came together with the ARPA distribution assistance, plus the assistance from the COVID-19 Team. Programs have expanded ways to use funds to meet the additional needs.

Tribal Government also working with other partners, i.e., universities—URI has a tuition free program and working on how this will be established; other programs like the Boys & Girls clubs. Looking to establish infrastructure to allow for holding meetings and gatherings, etc.

New Business:

Chief Sachem Stanton gave update on the ARPA application process being done in as timely a fashion as possible. Talked about who to contact for questions.

Ideas will be mailed out to show where we are at and where we are going.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. explained how we are working to better the Zoom meetings.

Native Arts Market in November was referenced.

First Councilman Spears, Jr. said across the country other Tribes are having the same issues as we are regarding meetings, etc. because of COVID. Tribe will be notified if and when in-person meetings resume.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Johnson
Tribal Secretary