

NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE
Tribal Body Zoom Call Meeting
November 27, 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 have passed.

Councilwoman Mars-Martins gave Spiritual Christian words.

Filling of seats for the Tribal Election Committee: Nominations were taken as follows:

Names:

Dawn Spears
Pearl Brown
Honey Collins
Parrish Simmons
Beth Thomas

Nominated by:

Carla Monroe
Dinalyn Spears
John Hopkins
Celina Simmons
Nichole Thomas

Motion was made by Ashkeah Hopkins, seconded by Councilman John Pompey to close the nominations for the Tribal Election Committee. Vote: Yeas – 18, Nays – 1, Abs – 0, Motion Passed.

Dawn Spears, Honey Collins and Pearl Brown accepted their nominations.

The Chief Sachem discussed the Tribal Construction Company. It was started on August, 2019 with a business plan, EIN#, scope of work, etc. Moving forward need people to sit on the LLC and other committees; send out ads for workers, i.e., carpenters, etc.; state may assist the Tribe. More information will be sent out to Tribal members. Tribe could then bid on state jobs moving forward. This will be a Tribally owned business with the possibility of getting our people trained and put in unions.

Chief Sachem said not everyone has business acumen, but have other skills that can help, i.e., blue collar workers to help strengthen the construction workforce.

First Councilman Spears, Jr., stated could do master apprentice opportunities for our young people and for our youth to learn from and have a trade.

Old Business:

Chief Sachem said the American Rescue Plan distribution rumors that the Tribe is out of money, etc. is not true. Also reminded everyone of the December 1, 2021 application deadline date and that, hopefully, most of the checks will be distributed by the third week of December.

Chief Sachem said regarding the Food Distribution, thanks for the positive responses and appreciation; and thanks for the crew that worked so hard to make it a success.

Chief Sachem said that the ARPA COVID-19 applications could be dropped off on Tuesday, November 30, between 4-6 p.m. at the Longhouse.

New Business:

First Councilman Spears, Jr. went to a virtual Whitehouse meeting to do with helping Indian Country; could be some help for our Tribe. Tribes did a good job holding them accountable. This administration is putting Indigenous people in power in a lot of various positions, and giving Tribal people a say in policies.

The Infrastructure Bill will help the Tribe with broadband and other areas, i.e., water treatment, agriculture, etc.

The Build Back Better Act intended for low and middle class, will take wealth from the rich to help, once approved, individual Tribes; looking at free child care, health care and other community assistance that will help Tribal people.

Questions regarding the Construction Co. can be sent to the Chief Sachem at the following address: P.O. Box 1354, Charlestown, RI.02813

For the ARPA Covid-19 applications and questions, call the hotline numbers: (401)302-5999 and (401) 680-3928 or email NITTRIBALCOUNCIL@gmail.com or NITTRIBALSECRETARY@gmail.com

Next meeting will be on January 8, 2022.

Councilman John Pompey made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Keith Sampson.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Johnson
Tribal Secretary