

NARRAGANSETT INDIAN TRIBE
Tribal Body Zoom Meeting
October 29, 2022

Council Present: Chief Sachem, Anthony Dean Stanton, First Councilman, Cassius Spears, Jr., Second Councilman Mike Monroe, Sr., John Mahoney, John Pompey, Heather Mars-Martins

Absent: Lonny Brown, Yvonne Lamphere, Keith Sampson, Ray Lamphere

Also Present: Tribal Secretary, Betty Johnson; Assistant Tribal Secretary, Monica Stanton

Meeting opened at 10:10 a.m. with 33 Tribal members on the call.

Chief Sachem opened meeting, gave Traditional Words and a moment of silence for those that are ill or that have passed. He also mentioned that COVID is still impacting our Tribal community.

Chief Sachem gave an update on the departments and that the Seniors are working on opening up the Senior center; also repairs to the Administration bldg., and that something is in the works for the holiday season for Tribal members.

Councilwoman Mars-Martins gave Christian words.

Old Business:

The Swearing-in of Provisional Members and how the process was done in June, July and August and is still a work in progress with technical corrections; thanked those that were involved.

Couldn't have a Tribal Assembly mtg. in September due to a lack of Tribal body attendance.

Gave update on Congressional issues and those people running for office.

For any economic development, need status change as 35% of our lands are wetlands. Only so much of the land can be developed. Working on some other economic development issues and will update the Body as we move forward.

Hotline: (401)302-5999; Nittribalcouncil@gmail.com or Nittribalsecretary@gmail.com

In the fourth quarter, administratively waiting for funding; some issues in WA.

Regarding Tribal ID's, looking into updating equipment and the process; BIA may have funds to assist the Tribe.

Regarding the Zoom calls, there can be no sharing of screens as we need to know who is on the call to track and each person needs to log in individually.

Update from the Chair of the TEC. The Committee attempted to hold a special meeting for updates regarding involvement. The meeting was disrupted with legal motions and this voided the meeting.

Look forward to mailings for future TEC special meeting notices.

New Business:

Holiday Season: resources going out to the Tribal members of \$300 checks towards holiday expenses. Anyone in system with no changes for adults 18 and older and legal guardians, will be sent a check automatically; for any changes, use the form.

Conference for National Congress of Indians to be held in CA.

Meeting at the end of November at the White House for Tribal leaders.

Impact Week in February.

It was stated that whoever controls the House and Senate controls Tribal entities. The Tribe itself is non-partisan and officially does not endorse candidates.

Regarding the appeal process for Tribal Elections, follow the process for a Special meeting via the By-Laws. There is no process to appeal an appeal and if not satisfied, need to reach out to the Tribal Council and/or the Tribal Court.

The EDC Native Arts Festival will be held on November 27 from 11-4 at the Towers in Narragansett.

Regarding in-person meetings, we do not have a facility large enough to house Tribal meetings. This is where the Tribe needs to look at the infrastructure issue as we grow. The Tribal Government is looking at a larger facility for these issues and at the design and costs for this venture.

Tribal government functions can only be conducted on Tribal lands and this will be looked into further.

Need to make better use of all the technology that is available for virtual meetings, etc. The Tribal Government is looking into this further, i.e., trainings, etc. This will also help to engage better with out of state members and keep them better informed. Tribal Government needs to make sure whatever is shared is done securely and not sure hybrid meetings are the best way.

Also looking into having better Zoom meeting experiences. The website needs to be updated to be more user friendly.

Looking into plans to hold language classes for youth, for cultural purposes and for seniors; will need coordinators.

Motion to adjourn by Eugene Robinson, seconded by Penny Machado. Vote: Yeas – 30, Nays – 0, Abs – 0; Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Johnson
Tribal Secretary