



WOLF LAKE FIRST NATION

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MINUTES BAND MEETING

Lands and Resources Office
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

PRESENT: Chief Lisa Robinson
Councillor Gerald Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martha Polson	Gerald Young (Online)
Liz Nolan Manning (Online)	Mary Honen (Online)
Laurie Robinson (Online)	Carl St-Denis (Online)
Tiffany Young (Online)	Melissa Lynda (Online)
Jason Chevrier (Online)	

1) Opening prayer

An opening prayer was recited by Martha Polson

2) Opening Remarks from Chief Robinson

Chief Lisa thanks all members who participated in the Annual Community Meeting that was held on November 26, 2019 at the Center in Temiscaming. We have undertaken this initiative to share our vision and planning for the next year. One of our goals is to bring our community together, to have more gatherings of our people, to develop our own resources and means and to become a sovereign independent nation. She also reminds the members that Wolf Lake First Nation has committed to holding the band meetings every second Tuesday of every second month. She then wishes everyone happy holidays and invites the members to the Christmas Gathering to be held on December 14 at the Royal Canadian Legion of Temiscaming.

3) Adoption of Agenda – December 10, 2019

The agenda for this meeting was prepared and read by Chief Lisa Robinson.

4) Adoption of Band Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2019

The minutes of October 8, 2019 were not available, therefore they will be presented at the next meeting along with those of December 10, 2019.

5) Follow up of Items from Band Meeting October 8th, 2019

6) Update from Chief and Council

Political Update:

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Meeting in Ottawa:

-With the recent federal election, new ministers appointed by Government of Canada to the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly. A highlight of this assembly was that the province of British Columbia has agreed to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDrip). The federal government had committed to implementing UNDrip in their previous mandate, and now that British Columbia is implementing UNDrip, a model to follow will be available for other governments to follow.

-The settlement of the Indian Day School Class Action Lawsuit has been approved but it has been delayed due to a court challenge from another law suit. This has resulted in the settlement process being delayed. The AFN were given a mandate to mediate in this lawsuit to resolve the issue.

Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Chiefs Meeting:

-The leadership of the 43 First Nations in Quebec and Labrador are working to establish a draft action plan to develop our political relationship with Quebec and set our priorities in the work to be done. We will also be meeting with Quebec in Val d'Or in January to follow up on the Viens Commission Report.

- Chiefs and Mayors Summit: As a result of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #43 the AFNQL have organized meetings that were attended by Chiefs and mayors of neighbouring municipalities. Two sessions were held and the aim of these forums is relationship building, to reinvigorate First Nations economy and increase capacity, partnerships etc. Next session will be hosted by the Algonquin Nation and should take place in Gatineau next summer.

Algonquin Nation:

Moose moratorium: Our eleven Algonquin communities have been putting emphasis on solving issues common to both of our tribal nations and one area has been the declining moose population, especially in the Lavendrye Park. The members of Barriere Lake have been requesting a moratorium on moose hunting. The request was unsuccessful for this year, however, a survey of the moose population will be conducted and members from our Algonquin nation will be taking part in the

training and participating in the survey. Upon completion of the survey, hunting policies will be developed and the number of hunting licences to be issued will be determined.

Indigenous Space at 100 Wellington Street:

Grand Chief Verna Polson attended our Annual Community Meeting to speak on this initiative. She discussed her work on ensuring we are included in equal partnership with the Indigenous Peoples Space in Ottawa. Now that the government is back in session work will continue in a bilateral process around acquiring a space dedicated to the Algonquin Nation.

City of Ottawa Protocol:

The University of Ottawa wishes to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and have implemented an Indigenous Action Plan as part of the University's long term strategic plan. They have invited the Algonquin Nation to provide input in this Action Plan around area such as; indigenous recruitment and hiring policies, research opportunities, having more indigenous representation on their board of directors, indigenous competency courses for their staff and faculty, visiting scholars program, internship and co-op opportunities.

National Capital Commission:

The National Capital Commission works with federal lands in and around Ottawa. We are looking to establish a relationship with them on a project called Building LeBreton which is an area of 53 acres situated in LeBreton Flats behind the Canadian War Museum. A planning session and strategy session with the Algonquin Nation leadership is planned to figure out how we want to be involved and what the opportunities are that we want to see for our Algonquin Nation in this project.

Algonquin Nation Secretariat:

The ANS who is responsible for our land claims research have met this week to approve the work plan. The ANS has been working with the Chiefs and will be submitting a brief as part of the specific claims policy reform that the AFN is now engaged in.

Algonquin Nation Programs & Services Secretariat:

Since the ANPSS meeting for November had to be rescheduled we are meeting this week to work on our vision for the tribal council programs and services, to determine what programs and services will be offered to our communities (WLFN, TFN & ABL)

Wolf Lake First Nation:

Gazoduq Natural Gas Pipeline: the proposed pipeline is to be extended from Northeastern Ontario near Matheson Ontario across the northern part of Algonquin Territory to a shipping terminal at Saguenay Quebec. An Algonquin Nation is the approach we will be taking. Comments on the pre-consultation phase were submitted on behalf of Wolf Lake to ensure protection of our rights and to emphasize our involvement in the consultation process. Wolf Lake has met with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to clarify how the new impact assessment process will be applied to the Gazoduq pipeline environmental assessment process. Comments and concerns were submitted, the CEAA has prepared a summary report on all the public consultations and issued to Gazoduq. A response from Gazoduq on this summary report is now expected before the environmental assessment

can continue.

Anishinabek Lands Forum:

This forum was held at Nipissing University in North Bay On. This was a great opportunity for Wolf Lake to gain information and ideas on how other communities are managing their land, information on different procurement opportunities, different aspects of the new environmental assessment act. The theme of the forum was “Everything is Connected” and Chief Lisa provided closing remarks and with the message that the main learning is how we have to build up the capacities of our Anishinabe people to be a part of the solutions needed for our community.

Church at Hunters Point:

Chief has approached Fr. Scott Marie in search of church records indicating the date that the Hunter’s Point Church was built in 1901. We were seeking this information to have the church declared as a heritage building to acquire funds for its preservation. To received the heritage building designation the building must be a century old. The MERN are in communications with WLFN regarding the archeological potential of the area. If any employment opportunities ensue from this we will keep our members informed.

Upcoming Travel:

The ANPSS Board meeting will take place this week in the Timiskaming First Nation reserve
The AFNQL meeting with Quebec in Val d’Or at the end of January
Travel in February with AFNQL with the Inuit Chiefs in Inuit territory in Labrador (there are some Innu nations who are members of the AFNQL).

Administration Update:

At our Annual Community Meeting and at previous band meetings Walter Manitowabi provided an update on the structure we wish to put in place, He followed up with direction provided from the membership and presented work on the governance, policies and procedures. He has worked with the committee on customizing our HR policy to fit our needs. He is also focusing on a financial management policy. This work will be completed by the end of our fiscal year which is March 31, 2020. In our next fiscal year we will be hiring a band manager and an economic development officer through a hiring process with the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council. We must have a fair, competitive and unbiased hiring process as Wolf Lake as these are very critical positions in our operations.

Clark Communications:

We are looking to update our website and those of our businesses to create continuity and to have a similar appearance when visitors browse business sites belonging Wolf Lake. They must also have linkages to each other and be accessible from the different internet searches.

Staff Training in February 2020:

WLFN staff will be participating in a Staff Retreat Session and will be working together with a facilitator and an elder.

Our staff will work on an annual planning program to coordinate our programs and our budgeting for our fiscal management.

WLFN Businesses Update:

This section of our update concentrates on the need of our long-term businesses for reinvigorating by some strategic planning. All three are located at key entrances to our territory: Swisha in the south where many enter the Dumoine watershed for camping and canoeing, Camp La Lucarne in the north where visitors enter our territory from HWY 101 and also access Kipawa Lake at Laniel. Then there is the Algonquin Canoe Company centrally situated in the territory and directly on the Ottawa River. Overall, we must develop our economic strategy for these businesses.

Nanabush Café did not open this past summer but we rented the trailer, operated the laundromat and provided canoe rentals. Due to a demand for winter cabin rentals we are now looking at the possibility of winterizing and refurbishing our premises.

Algonquin Canoe Company provides a great opportunity to share our territory with the public and tourists who wish to visit. In the past we have concentrated on developing canoe routes and having different camping areas. We are now looking at the possibility of providing a centralized camping area to provide all the necessary camping amenities.

The handicraft is another area where we have a niche market that needs developing. Discussions are ongoing with Clark Communications about promotion and the use of social media for the Algonquin Canoe Company. We have asked Madeleine Paul to do some assessment of the Algonquin Canoe Company and also provide some possible strategic direction.

Camp La Lucarne: needs refurbishment and strategic planning, winterizing the cabins and renaming the camp. The operations have mostly taken place during the summer months and we are now considering the possibility of opening 3 days a week from Friday to Sunday for the winter. The restaurant will be opened also so we will be searching for help in the restaurant.

Small scale sawmill operation: We have had several enquiries about WLFN operating a small sawmill so we have visited such an operation in Rouyn and had discussed some possible connections on working together and we met with Rayonier who have partnered with other first nations in our territory and in Ontario. This is another business for which we will consider developing a feasibility study.

9) Varia & Questions

With no other item on the agenda and no other items to discuss, the meeting ends.

10) Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting date is February 11, 2020 at 7p.m.