**Council Minutes**

**September 4, 2021**

* Firekeepers opened at 9:15 am

Hohahes reported on the brief presentation he and Rick Hill done via Zoom this past Thursday, on the Two Row Wampum. The Dutch Foreign Ambassador to Canada took part and was very knowledgeable on the subject. We were very limited for time. We suggest drafting a letter to invite her to Council and perhaps arrange follow up meetings between her and HERC.

**DECISION MADE**: All sides agreed for Rick and Hohahes to draft a letter and to send it along via email for everyone to review.

Hohahes also informed council on what transpired after the passing on of Chief Leo Henry. His Clanmother Lena Rickard chose Brennan Ferguson to be Seat-Warmer at Small Condolence. He was introduced and spoken to by both sides. He was instructed to work with Chief Tom Jonathan and will be brought forth at next Big Condolence. (during “dreams” part). Brennan introduced himself and spoke a few words and council welcomed him.

* #1 Restructuring- Dehatgahdohs reported on their meetings to form an interim administration board. They’re suggesting a 9 person committee (3 from each side of fire). They want council to appoint an interim committee, and possibly advertise to community members later on, once policies and protocols are developed by the interim team.

**DECISION MADE**: All sides agreed with the idea of a 9 person committee but decided to come back next council with potential names for discussion next council, also a suggestion was made to recommend a “hohsdi:sdoh/gohsdi:sdoh-he/she would be an organizer/overseer/chairperson.

* #2 – Land Back- Courtney Skye gave an update on Court situation, Youth Work, and they’re planning to have a “Water Gathering” in September (depending on Covid situation). They’ve been doing their own fundraising, selling merchandise etc. They’re aiming on presenting a plan “Protect the Tract” by April 2022. They want to establish a bank account with Kindred Credit Union (Mennonites). To do so, they need proof that council is approving and taking oversight responsibilities. Council heard legal advice from Aaron D. that due to significant legal actions against those involved at Land back (approximately $800 Million in Lawsuits, most names involved are also those wanting to start “protect the tract” initiative), this would bring the liability at council, we must exercise caution. There needs to be clear Terms of Reference, discussed and approved by Council.

**DECISION MADE**: All sides thanked them for their ongoing work and decided they need to see Terms of Reference before giving their sanction to establish a committee and bank account.

* #3 – H.E.R.C. – Colin M. (Co-chair) gave a report and summarized what they understand Grand Council assigned them to do. HERC will provide a written report to Hohahes. They realize there needs to be better communication with Haudenosaunee Councils. All sides agreed on the importance of ongoing work, however they clarified that there needs to be better engagement with Chiefs and Councils. The appointed reps from Grand River and Oneida are to bring back reports and info, for discussion and deliberation by Council.

**Lunch Break**

* Colin forwarded a written report and spoke of the content. They’re engaged in trying to re-kindle and re-strengthen relations with Onkwehonwe and Non-Onkwehonwe Nations, Allies and Treaty partners.
* He also reported on an April 8th meeting they had with Canada’s representative Mark Miller. They hadn’t heard anything back since and were surprised Mark Miller, in a phone call with our Council Secretary and a few Chiefs, brought up the idea of appointing a special rep to deal with Haudenosaunee issues. It hasn’t been discussed at committee level. (we need to be clear about where that issue is to be dealt with). Those involved in the call were totally unaware of, neither the offer, nor that such a topic of discussion occurred anywhere.
* He also reported on the difficulty with the Haudenosaunee I.D. Cards. Atos is requesting additional funds in order to restart, after Covid 19 difficulties. The H.D.C. and H.E.R.C. committees have written Atos for discussion/explanation on their $25,000 request and haven’t heard back yet. H.D.C. Chair Karl Hill attempted to put everything on hold, due to Grand River wanting to be reimbursed funds. HDC and HERC committees were told to work together but this hasn’t occurred to date. Marlene D. invited the Chiefs and Clanmothers to listen in on the I.D. Card mtg tomorrow @10am and will provide zoom info. The suggestion was brought forth to have a strategy mtg in 2 weeks time.
* HERC member Kenneth Deer has been invited to Geneva on Sept. 25-30, 2021 for a special exhibit. His 2 Haudenosaunee passports are part of the Deskaheh exhibit. HERC is requesting financial support for Kenneth to travel (approximately $4500), and for a new laptop for Marlene D. HDI Finance confirmed there are funds set aside for HERC.
* HERC’s ongoing discussions with Canada officials are on hold till after Canada’s federal election this fall.

* **DECISION MAD**E: Council thanked them for the report and agreed to provide support providing a budget and outline of activities is provided. HDI finance recommended that there must be process for auditors. Requests to flow through Council Secretary, then to Tracy G. at HDI.
* #4 – HDI Report – Aaron D. gave a report, also showing a screen to review on zoom. They scheduled a Sept. 8th mtg with Chiefs and Clanmothers. They need several hours and will go over that we got another clean audit and; Recent projects, Land Acquisitions, Band Council’s litigation, Mississaugas, NanFan Treaty, HDI Toronto. Aaron also reported it’s been a decent year as far as this year’s gains (mentioned expecting approximately $5-6 Million this year).

**DECISION MAD**E: All sides thanked them for the report and ongoing work. Council also reaffirmed the decision that taxes not be paid to municipalities, on the re-acquired lands.

* #5 – Letters & Reports – Mennonite Central Committee requesting a separate zoom meeting in October or November to discuss reconciliation fund. (Will arrange next month).
* Next Letter – Tim Hortons rep Landon Miller explained a new reconciliation/fundraising effort being worked on, and asked where we think funds raised from Tim Hortons’ initiative on “Every Child Matters”, should be expended. Council agreed that this year’s funds should be directed to help K/G Immersion get a new school. Secretary to notify Landon.

* Next Letter was information from Heather Watts inviting to a Lifelong learning task force meeting September 8th. (Council accepted as info only, not sending any rep)
* Letter received from the dissolved Haudenosaunee Nationals Womens Lacrosse Board. Council stayed with the former decision and doesn’t see any reason to discuss further. Council considers the issue dealt with.

#6 – Paul Williams – He wrote and published a book which he said has sold approximately 2000 copies, entitled “Kayanerenkowah”, without Council discussion nor sanction, and was invited by Council Chiefs to address the issue today. Paul stated he don’t know why Council never took any action when William Fenton wrote books. He said on hindsight, he regrets giving the book the name he did but feels it’s too late to change it. He also said he is writing a 2nd book about Treaties and will try to be more careful with choosing a title.

**DECISION MAD**E: After much discussion and expressions of disappointment from Council, All sides acknowledged the difficult matter at hand. His actions have mislead people. All agreed he shouldn’t have done things the way he proceeded as he was told multiple times of process and protocol, and Council does not support nor sanction what he done. Paul was told to use better ethics, respect protocol, and to have consideration of Council and Committees, in future. Also, should any further inquiries continue coming in, Council Secretary is to inform people and organizations that the book doesn’t have support nor sanction from Council.

Firekeepers closed Council @ 6pm.

AGENDA

October 9, 2021

#1 – Restructuring work?

#2 – Land Back update

#3 – HDI

#4 – Letters/Updates

#5 – Draft Wampum policy

#6 – HERC