

**Delaware Tribe of Indians**  
**Elders Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of**  
**January 22, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Beverly Hicks, Chair, at 1:04 pm.  
The meeting was held in the FCS Meeting Room and on Zoom.

**Roll Call:**

Beverly Hicks, Chair - present  
Jana Roth, Vice Chair - present  
Secretary- vacant  
Mollie Martin, Treasurer - present  
Steve Donnell, Sargent-at-Arms, - present  
Annette Ketchum, Elder Liaison - absent (ill)  
Billie Jean Sheshey, Elder-at-Large - present via Zoom

**Prayer:** Steve Donnell

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Steve Donnell and seconded by Billie Jean Sheshey to approve the December 17, 2024 minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Nomination Election for Elder Committee Secretary:** Angelia Franke was nominated for Elder Committee Secretary by Jana Roth and seconded by Steve Donnell. No other nominations were made. Motion was unanimously approved.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report by Mollie Martin:** Budget variance left in November was \$2,770.93, plus unrestricted funds of \$650, gives an

ending balance of \$3,427.23. Motion to approve the report subject to audit by Jana Roth and seconded by Steve Donnell. Motion carried.

**Elder Liaison Report:** The report was postponed as Annette Ketchum was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

**Guests:**

Tristen Tucker provided information about organizing a Gardening Club. The purpose of the club is to build community engagement, involve all Tribal departments, share gardening ideas, and increase food sovereignty. Those interested should contact Tristen by phone or email. The first meeting date will be announced soon.

Tristen also discussed A History of Avian Conservation workshop to be held Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in Forsythe Hall. He encouraged those who are interested in attending to RSVP to him.

Farrell Burks, Trust Board Chair; Jonni Donnell, and John Thomas were also in attendance.

**Old Business:**

**a. Bear Tompkins Receipts**

The Historical Preservation Committee hosted Munsee youth in December. Because the grant did not cover all expenses, the Elder Committee offered to pay \$300 for meals. The total bill was \$318.10, higher than budgeted due to tips. Billie Sheshey made a motion to pay \$318.10 to cover the entire expense. Motion seconded by Jana Roth. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. March Jewelry Class**

The class will be held on March 29. A motion was made by Angelia Franke to authorize Beverly Hicks to purchase \$500 or

less in materials. Seconded by Jana Roth. Motion carried unanimously.

**c. Review and complete the Elder Committee document for Activities/Dates/Estimated Costs for 2025**

Mollie Martin will keep track of the budget and expenditures. The orange shirt day jewelry class was changed from September to August so Billie Jean Sheshey, the instructor, will not have to travel to Headquarters three consecutive months.

**New Business:**

**a. Peyote Beading Class**

After discussion with the instructor Jonni Donnell, the Elder Committee decided more than one class was needed for participants to gain all the skills needed for beading. No extra cost will be incurred for the added classes. The dates for the classes are February 18, February 25, March 4, March 11, and March 18. All classes will be held in the FCS Conference Room except the February 25<sup>th</sup> class which will be held in Forsythe Hall. Billie Jean Sheshey made a motion to purchase \$500 in supplies for the classes. Seconded by Angelia Franke. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Officer Roles and Responsibilities**

Committee members reviewed the document. Steve Donnell suggested the document should be added to the Elder Committee Constitution and By-laws. The Constitution and By-laws have been submitted to the Trust Board, but no action has been taken by the Trust Board. Therefore, the Officer Roles and Responsibilities could be added and the entire document submitted back to the Trust Board. This item was tabled.

**c. Discuss Committee Meeting Dates for 2025**

The conflict of the Trust Board and Elder Committee meetings was discussed. Farrell Burks indicated the Trust Board meetings were changed to accommodate a member who has medical appointments and those who work full time. He, along with the members of the Trust Board, did not realize this created a conflict. Farrell will take the matter back to the Trust Board to see if a different day could be scheduled. This item was tabled.

**d. Discuss Funding Elder Prescription Program**

Farrell Burks, Chair of the Trust Board, reported that last year was difficult for the Trust Board and many program's funding ran out before the end of the year. The Trust Board budget has been increased by \$25,000 more than last year. On behalf of the Trust Board, Farrell asked if the Elder Committee would take on the administration and financial responsibility of the Elder Prescription Program. The approximate cost of the program would be \$5,000 per year which is one-third of the Elder Committee's current budget. A tribal member may ask for \$75/month up to \$900/year in prescription assistance. Proof is shown before the payment is made. The Elder Committee members asked for more information to be given as this would be a huge responsibility for future Elder Committees. This item was tabled.

**e. New procedures for Tribal Credit Card**

Farrell Burks reviewed the new procedure as follows:

1. A copy of the receipt(s) will be given to Hayden and placed in a sealed envelope.
2. Tara will pick up the sealed envelopes and prepare the reimbursement.

A sign-up sheet will document who submitted the receipts, the date, who received the receipts, and the date Tara picked up the receipts. A copy of the minutes is to be attached to the receipt(s).

**f: Card Program**

A motion was made by Steve Donnell to reimburse Mollie Martin \$146 for stamps. Seconded by Angelia Franke. Motion carried with yes votes from all members except Mollie Martin who abstained.

**g: Lenape Veterans Center**

Steve Donnell showed the cradle he made that will be the first place prize in a raffle to benefit the Lenape Veterans Center. Second place prize will be Lenape games. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held at the February Tribal Council meeting.

**h: Lenape Family Game Night**

Several people have requested to have game night with a potluck dinner once a month. Game Night will build relationships with elders and children in the community. Steve Donnell will plan the Game Nights, and Jana Roth and Beverly will provide the drinks. The dates of Game Nights has been scheduled for February 28 and March 28 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm in Forsythe Hall. A motion was made by Jana Roth to have Family Game Nights. Seconded by Mollie Martin. Motion carried.

**i: Ratify Poll Vote**

Jana Roth made a motion to ratify the poll vote taken on January 11, 2025 to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. Seconded by Mollie Martin. Motion approved unanimously.

**Set Date of Next Meeting**

The meeting will be held on February 26, 2025 at 1:00 pm in the FCS Building.

**Motion to Adjourn** made by Steve Donnell. Seconded by Mollie Martin. Motion carried unanimously. Adjournment at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by Angelia Franke on January 24, 2025

Correction: spelling of Bear Tompkins' name and Billie Jean Sheshey – present via Zoom.

Approved by the Elder Committee on February 26, 2025.