Welcome and Introductions: By New Chairperson Paul Downing
Chairperson Paul Downing welcomed the Commissioners, Rep. Newell and members of the public listening by audio stream. Introductions were made by the Commission Members and Paul Downing introduced himself and provided some of his professional and personal background.

Review of Agenda
The proposed agenda was reviewed. No changes were made. There was a discussion about the feasibility of reserving a portion of MITSC remote meetings to address questions submitted by members of the public who are listening by audio stream. Managing Director Paul Thibeault commented that with the meetings limited to two hours it may not be possible to get through the agendas in time to field questions. There was a consensus that to the extent that time permits the Commission will attempt to review and respond to questions submitted by the public.

Review & Approval of Minutes
The draft Minutes from the meetings on September 8 and October 13 were reviewed.

Motion: John Cashwell made a motion to approve the Minutes as drafted for September 8 and October 13. John Banks seconded the motion. John Cashwell seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Financial Report and Managing Director Report
Managing Director Paul Thibeault referred the Commissioners to his written Managing Director Report which includes the Financial Report and stated that he would answer any questions from Commissioners. Paul Thibeault noted that the monthly and year-to-date financial reports were provided to the Commissioners and he stated the current balance in the bank accounts.
Paul Thibeault stated that the MITSC funding request for the next State biennial budget was submitted on October 19, 2020. The request seeks annual State funding increases of $92,000.

Paul Thibeault stated that the “onsite” portion of the audit for FY20 is scheduled for December 5. The auditor requested that it be done remotely because of Covid-19. Pat Mallar will be collecting and scanning the required documents to the auditor.

**Motion:** John Cashwell made a motion to approve the financial report. Seconded by Bert Polchies. All voted in favor.

**Managing Director Report** - Paul Thibeault referred the Commissioners to his written Managing Director Report. He emphasized the need to continue the work planning process that was started in the October 13 meeting.

**Old Business**

Paul Thibeault suggested that the second agenda item regarding action on a By-laws amendment be moved up on the agenda and there was a consensus to do so.

**Pending Motion to Amend the By-Laws Regarding Stipends** - This motion was initiated at the September 8, 2020 meeting. Pursuant to the By-Laws provision on amendments, the motion was continued to a second meeting for action. The language of the proposed motion was reviewed and discussed by the Commissioners. Richard Rosen suggested a change to the proposed language and agreed to provide it in writing.

**Motion:** John Cashwell made a motion to table the pending motion until the next regular meeting. John Banks seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Discussion of Formation of a Nonprofit Education/Research Entity**

Bob Checkoway reported on the work that he and Paul Thibeault have done on this work plan item since the last meeting. He described options to create a new education/research nonprofit entity or pursue a collaboration with an existing entity such as the Wabanaki Center. There was also discussion of other entities with which MITSC might seek a collaboration to obtain funding for MITSC to conduct research and education projects. There was a consensus that this issue should continue to be part of the work plan and that Bob and Paul Thibeault should continue to pursue possible collaborations.

By consensus, the update on Tribal-State legislation was moved up in the agenda. Passamaquoddy Representative Rena Newell provided an update on the state legislative elections results, Tribal representation in the new legislative session, and how the new Legislature plans to function during the pandemic. Rep. Newell stated that she expects the Tribal-State bills that were approved by the Judiciary Committee in August to be reintroduced in some form, whether as a single bill or multiple bills. Rena stated that Rachel Talbot Ross, the new Assistant Majority Leader in the House, is working with her
and Ambassador Dana to organize a speaker series on Tribal-State issues. She stated that Paul Thibeault has offered to speak regarding UNDRIP and the Maine legislative resolution supporting UNDRIP. There was discussion of the need to institutionalize education and knowledge of Tribal matters in the Legislature so that it does not have to be done from scratch in every new session. Paul Thibeault noted that the now-deleted language of LD 2118 would have partially addressed that need. There was discussion of possibly creating a permanent legislative committee for Tribal-State matters. There was also discussion of the need to revitalize LD 291/Wabanaki Studies as the long-term solution to the lack of public understanding about Tribal matters. Rep. Newell stated that some efforts to revitalize Wabanaki Studies have already been happening and that some meetings have been held with the current Education Commissioner. There was a consensus that Paul Thibeault should follow up to learn more about the status of those efforts and that revitalizing Wabanaki Studies should continue to be part of the work plan discussions.

At this point there was a consensus that there would not be enough time in the 2-hour meeting to discuss all the agenda items. Paul Thibeault then provided brief updates on the Sustenance Fishing Study, the Article X Report, and the planning for an event in January to honor former Commissioners. By consensus, the meeting then moved on to continued discussion of the Work Plan.

**Continued Discussion of the MITSC Work Plan**

After discussion and recommendations by Chairperson Downing, there was a consensus that the Commission should schedule a special meeting in December to focus on Work Plan items, and that Paul Thibeault should do a Doodle poll to determine the best time for a 2-hour Work Plan meeting. There was then a discussion of how to enhance the Tribal and State Commissioners communications, back and forth, with their appointing governments about MITSC matters. James Cote recommended that the Commissioners first focus on the work plan and set MITSC priorities as a precursor to approaching their governments about what MITSC wants to discuss with them. There was a consensus to move ahead in that fashion.

The future meeting schedule was discussed. By consensus, the next regular MITSC meeting will be in January. Chairperson Downing recommended that after January, regular MITSC meetings be held bi-monthly.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Bert Polchies made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandi Yarmal. All voted in favor, and Chairperson Downing adjourned the meeting.