

OLD BUSINESS

8-10-09

DRAFT

Council of Seven
Pokanoket Tribe - Wampanoag Nation

there is not address for these folks..emailed asking

Re: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

Dear President Guy:

The Middleborough Board of Selectmen are in receipt of your correspondence dated June 27, 2009 regarding the ancestral tribal lands of the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation. The Board of Selectmen, as a municipality is not the authority that would pass judgment on the merits of any determination of Pokanoket Tribal ancestral lands to the Mashpee and Mohegan Tribes.

This determination may best be performed by the United States Department of the Interior's - Bureau of Indian Affairs. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office at (508) 946 - 2405.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. Rogers, Chairman
Middleborough Board of Selectmen



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**The Council of Seven/Royal House of Pokanoket/
Pokanoket Tribe/Wampanoag Nation**

RECEIVED

JUL -9 2009

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MIDDLEBOROUGH, MA

June 27, 2009

Middleborough Board of Selectman
Town Hall
10 Nickerson Ave.
Middleborough, Ma. 02346

The Honorable Adam Bond
Marsha Brunelle
Muriel Duphily
Patrick Rogers
Stephen Spataro
Charles Cristello: Town Manager

RE: THE UNLAWFUL GRANTING OF POKANOKET TRIBAL ANCESTRAL LANDS TO THE MASHPEE & MOHEGAN TRIBES IN MIDDLEBOROUGH AND PALMER RESPECTIVELY. (Further referred to as "Pokanoket/s")

Honorable Board of Selectman/Town Council:

This missive is based on exigent circumstances regarding the right of our tribe to exist on lands as other tribes have been afforded that inherent right. It goes beyond this rudimentary right to preserve and practice our historically rich culture. We are now engaged in nothing short of "A fight for our tribal life" to exist in our homeland as being our homeland and to ensure the present and future economic well being of our tribe.

You are well aware of who we are in history. Our tribe met the Pilgrims from the Mayflower. We, through our beloved Massasoit Ousa Mequin, signed a treaty with then Governor William Bradford. We shared our Harvest Nikkomo with the Pilgrims in what is now called "Thanksgiving Day". We taught the Pilgrims survival skills in a land that was foreign to them and together we enjoyed a degree of peace for over 40 years until the death of Massasoit Ousa Mequin. Shortly afterwards, with the continued taking of our lands and the change of Native Americans having equal status with the English, to that of a lower class citizenship, the relationship deteriorated. In an effort to restore the Native American culture that existed prior to pre-colonial periods, the King Philip's War soon ensued. I'm sure you're well aware of this part of history and what followed when the English prevailed in the war under the reign of King Philip (a.k.a. Massasoit Metacom). Tribes that participated in the war, with the exception of the Pokanoket Tribe, were allowed to sign a peace treaty and land was assigned to them for tribal use. They were allowed to practice their culture if it was conducted in a peaceful manner. The Pokanoket Tribe was not afforded the same basic treatment and rights.

The Pokanoket Tribe, being the headship of the Wampanoag Nation, became the victim of a near genocide following the King Philip's War. Many of our leaders, being our government, were eliminated through executions and exile. Many others from the royal line of the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation

hid themselves amongst other tribes purely for survival purposes; as a result, the lineage of the Pokanoket Tribe royal line continues to exist to this day. A law was passed by the English that any male 14 years of age or older who declared he was Pokanoket, was subject to being executed. Our tribe was scattered in a failed attempt to eliminate the existence of the Pokanoket Tribe. Only through self-determination did we continue to exist in a covert and secreted manner to the active tribal membership of today.

We are a fully functioning tribe with a structured tribal government, actively practicing our culture through ceremonies, annual powwows, social events and many other gatherings. We interact with other tribes and are recognized by other tribes who commonly participate in our cultural events as being the Council of Seven/Royal House of Pokanoket/Pokanoket Tribe/Wampanoag Nation.

Our tribe has already submitted documentation to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs seeking Federal Recognition for our people. The application has been accepted and is under review. The Bureau of Indian Affairs requested that we provide additional documentation and that request is nearing completion for submittal to allow the recognition process to progress under the auspices of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A few years ago during our federal recognition process, two federally recognized tribes; the Mashpee Tribe (who were historically a clan of the Pokanoket Nation) and the Mohegan Tribe (who were actually Pequot) jointly attempted a coordinated effort to possess **ancestral** tribal lands rightfully belonging to the Pokanoket Tribe/Wampanoag Nation, in Middleboro, MA. This was a favorite village of Massasoit Ousa Mequin, which is recorded as such in historical records. A protest letter and a claim to first right to that land was sent to Governor Deval Patrick of Massachusetts and their faulted venture was stopped. Now the threat reappears as the Mashpee and Mohegan tribes are renewing their efforts to possess our **ancestral** tribal lands in Palmer and Middleboro, MA. A change of position by Governor Patrick has resulted in his decision not honor our first right to claim this land as our **ancestral** tribal lands. The legislature turned down similar motions but Governor Patrick has publicly announced that he wants to by-pass the legislature by the use of a "Compact" between the State of MA and the Mashpee Tribe and possibly the Mohegan Tribe.

The Mashpee Tribe has always been a coastal tribe and can't lay claim to any inland portions of the Pokanoket Tribe/Wampanoag Nation former lands without the authority of the auspices of the headship of Pokanoket. The Pokanoket/Wampanoag Nation, for lack of a better example, was set up similar to our current form of government in the United States. The Mashpee Tribe would represent a town/village and their claims would stay within their borders of their immediate town or village area; whereas the Pokanoket Tribe of the Wampanoag Nation was compared as the federal government having authority over the entire nation. Thus, the coastal tribe of the Mashpee claim for inland Pokanoket/Wampanoag land is faulted and invalid. We do not intend to allow the unjust possession of our ancient lands by a previous coastal clan of the Pokanoket/Wampanoag Nation, who never had any right to, or any claim for control of our inland tribal lands, and certainly not ownership rights.

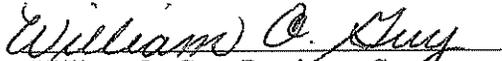
Again, much like the plight of other cultures, such as the Jewish people, we are about to become the victims of monetary gain by others, for the benefit of others. Our solvent existence, tribal welfare, our children's and grandchildren's future and culture is about to be adversely affected based on an agenda of greed and injustice. This just cannot be allowed to happen.

We are seeking your support now at this critical juncture in time to allow us to obtain our rightful existence, tribal land and the ability to promote and practice our culture like all other tribes. We can't afford to once again fall victim to economic designs which will benefit others in total disregard of our inherent right to exist and to rightfully be made "Whole" once again. Simplistically, we want a basic right and expectation to a guaranteed future of our Tribe.

The future of our tribe will be determined by the outcome of this unlawful attempt to improperly take possession of our rightful place on our tribal land by denying us the right to co-exist wholly along side other tribes and non-Native American communities. As Native Americans and true loyal Americans, are we to be exiled again in the pursuit of tainted land seizures and economic gains?

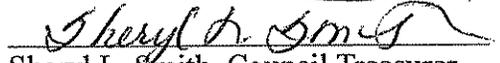
Please contact me so we can personally discuss this matter. We can also arrange for a telephonic conference with Tribal Council members if that would expedite the review of this urgent matter.

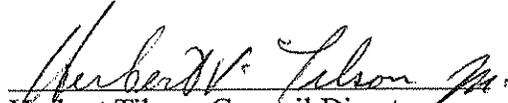
Aquene,


William O. Guy, President-Sagamore

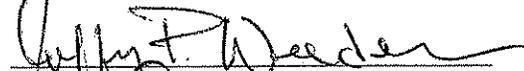

Clifford W. Guy, Vice President-Powwas

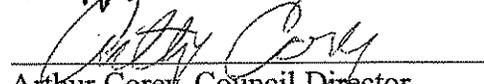

Tracey A. Brown, Council Secretary


Sheryl L. Smith, Council Treasurer


Herbert Tilson, Council Director


Clifford Soucy, Council Director


Jeffrey Weeden, Council Director


Arthur Corey, Council Director