HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE
Seeqanamâquhpâhqut

LISTENING TO OUR ANCESTORS
PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND
HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE
TRIBAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

• MELISSA FERRETTI, CHAIRLADY/PRESIDENT
• RODNEY HUNT, VICE CHAIRMAN
• KATHERINE HUNT, SECRETARY / TREASURER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/COUNCILORS:

• JENNIFER (HARDING) MCKEITHAN
• LORI (HARDING) WENTWORTH, TRIBAL COUNCILOR
• LISA (HARDING) TEDSTONE, TRIBAL COUNCILOR

ENROLLMENT:

HAZEL OAKLEY, ELDER
KATHY H., ELDER
KATHLEEN GATELY
JEANNINE RHONDA HUNT

HPWT LSYEP STEERING COMMITTEE

DONNA FISH
KATHLEEN GATELY
LORI (HARDING) WENTWORTH
JENNIFER (HARDING) MCKEITHAN
LISA (HARDING) TEDSTONE

Medicine Man
Troy Currence
CONNECTING OUR HISTORY TO THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE TRIBAL COMMUNITY

THE STORY OF TRIBAL LAND AND THE WAYS THAT OUR COMMUNITY HAS WORKED TO PRESERVE THE LAND AND ITS PROFOUND IMPORTANCE TO THE LIVES OF TRIBAL MEMBERS.

CURRENT INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS OF THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE:

❖ DIGITIZING HISTORICAL RECORDS OF OUR 1838 PONDVILLE INDIAN MEETINGHOUSE / BAPTIST CHURCH (HELD BY HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE)

❖ DIGITIZING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING TRIBAL PETITIONS AND REPORTS OF “GUARDIANS OF THE INDIANS” HOUSED AT MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES


❖ ASSESSING RESOURCES HELD BY LOCAL REPOSITORIES (PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM; PLYMOUTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY; PLYMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OTHER (APS, HARVARD, YALE)

❖ CREATION OF THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG LAND STEWARDSHIP AND YOUTH ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM WITH A GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE SHEEHAN FAMILY COMPANIES IN DECEMBER 2019

❖ STEWARDSHIP OF OUR 19TH CENTURY DINA PATH TRIBAL CEMETERY, LOCATED WITHIN A 6-ACRE PARCEL OF OUR ORIGINAL RESERVATION LANDS KNOWN AS “THE GREAT LOT”

❖ STEWARDSHIP OF OTHER BURIAL GROUNDS AND SACRED SITES

❖ ONGOING COLLABORATIONS WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOLARS AND STATE/FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.

❖ TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARD RECEIVED 2018 – FROM C4 INNOVATIONS THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) AND PLYMOUTH HEALING COMMUNITIES COALITION-BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER WITH THE GOAL OF ENSURING DELIVERY OF RECOVERY SUPPORT TO OUR TRIBAL MEMBERS

❖ PLANNING FOR ORAL HISTORY SESSIONS AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS WITH TRIBAL MEMBERS ABOUT THE HISTORICAL AND ONGOING ISSUES THAT THE DOCUMENTS ADDRESS. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT…. 
HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE MEMBERSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS

❖ MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN OF COLOR COALITION – MEMBER
❖ UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON CENTER FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY, MEMBER
❖ AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY – CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN AND INDIGENOUS RESEARCH-COLLABORATION
❖ HERRING POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBER AT LARGE
❖ WATERSHED ACTION ALLIANCE – FRIENDS MEMBER
❖ PLYMOUTH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY - MEMBER
❖ PLYMOUTH HEAL COALITION, MA-HEALING COMMUNITIES STUDY WITH BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER- PARTNER
❖ SUFFOLK LAW SCHOOL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE CLINIC - COLLABORATION
❖ C4 INNOVATIONS AND NEW ENGLAND MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER NETWORK (MHTCC) - COLLABORATION
❖ WÔPANÂAK LANGUAGE RECLAMATION PROJECT (WLRP) – PARTNER
MAP OF
THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG HISTORICAL RESERVATION
BY CHANNING HOWARD (1942)
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HERRING POND RESERVATION “PLANTATION”

❖ IN 1658, PLYMOUTH COLONY OFFICIALS AGREED TO SET ASIDE LANDS FOR INDIAN PEOPLES’ SOLE USE. A “PLANTATION” (RESERVATION) FOR THE “PRAYING INDIANS” WAS ESTABLISHED AT HERRING POND IN 1685.

❖ THE FIRST INDIAN MEETING HOUSE BUILT ON CAPE COD (1637), LOCATED IN BOURNEDALE AT WHAT IS NOW CALLED BURIAL HILL. HERRING POND AND OTHER WAMPANOAG COMMUNITIES ATTENDED RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CEREMONIES THERE.

❖ THE POPULATION OF THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG PEOPLE LIVING ON THE RESERVATION IN 1685 WAS RECORDED AS 120 INDIVIDUALS. OTHER TRIBAL MEMBERS LIVED IN AREAS NEAR THE RESERVATION.

• IN 1694, THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY GOVERNMENT PLACES ALL NATIVE PEOPLES ON RESERVATION LANDS UNDER AUTHORITY OF COLONIAL OFFICIALS, WHO WERE TO BE SO-CALLED “GUARDIANS” OF THEIR RESERVATIONS.

❖ IN THE 1700’S HERRING POND WAMPANOAG PEOPLE BEGAN PETITIONING THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT TO ASSERT OUR RIGHTS TO OUR RESERVATION. IN THE 1800’S OUR TRIBAL COMMUNITY WAS OFTEN UNDER PRESSURE TO SELL WOOD AND PARCELS OF OUR RESERVATION LANDS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AND PAY DEBTS IMPOSED ON US BY THE GUARDIANS, MISSIONARIES, ETC.
Paid $80.00 for Dr Runnels for services as a physician between June 1864 and June 1865

Paid $40.00 Ellis for supplies to Ralph Blackwell when sick

Paid $21.00 to J.W Pope for the coffin of Ralph Blackwell and child of S. Webquish (Lucy Anah buried at Dina Path)

Paid .90 to J. Bourne for Books (Jonathan Bourne)
1932 WHITMAN HOWARD MAP OF CEDARVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD, SHOWING THE LOCATION OF CEMETERIES AND SACRED LANDMARKS

A. Indian meeting house, 1637, the first Indian meeting house on Cape Cod and the Indian burial ground of that time.
B. Indian meeting house and burial ground of 100 years and more, later.
C. Modern Indian burying ground.
D. Present Indian meeting house existing since 1860, more or less.
E. "Dinah Field" Indian burying ground, both ancient and modern.
F. Ancient Indian burying ground.
G. Indian burying ground both ancient and modern.
“INDIAN POLICY” AND THE ALLOTMENT OF TRIBAL RESERVATION LANDS IN THE 19TH CENTURY

- 1850 - THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE’S “ACT CONCERNING THE PLANTATION AT HERRING POND” WAS INTENDED TO DIVIDE THE LANDS OF THE HERRING POND WAMPCANOAG TRIBE, IN ORDER TO IMPOSE INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP OF SMALL PARCELS OF THE RESERVATION.

- THE DIVIDED LAND CONSISTED OF THREE SEPARATE PARCELS DIVIDED INTO 111 SEPARATE PARCELS. THE RESERVATION LANDS LOCATED IN MOSTLY IN PLYMOUTH BUT PARTLY IN BOURNE IN TOTAL WAS ABOUT 3,000 ACRES, NAMELY “THE GREAT LOT” ABOUT (2600 ACRES), THE MEETINGHOUSE LOT (ABOUT 200 ACRES), AND THE HERRING RIVER LOT (ABOUT 400 ACRES)

BY AN ACT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE IN APRIL 1859, EARLE WAS TO WRITE AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF "THE CONDITION OF THE INDIANS IN THE COMMONWEALTH"

EARLE COUNTED 67 TRIBAL MEMBERS, 45 WHO LIVED ON THE RESERVATION AND 22 LIVING ELSEWHERE. HE STATED THE MEDIAN AGE OF TRIBAL MEMBERS AS 24, AND LISTED A SMALLER NUMBER OVER 40 (EARLE 1861:67)

REGARDING THE RESERVATION LANDS RETAINED BY THE TRIBE AFTER ALLOTMENT, EARLE WROTE: "THE TERRITORY OF THIS TRIBE IS MOSTLY LIGHT AND SANDY, AND OF LITTLE USE FOR CULTIVATION," AND THAT THE LAND REMAINING TO THE TRIBE AFTER THE 1850 ALLOTMENT WAS "UNPRODUCTIVE OF INCOME" (EARLE 1861:67-69)

AS EARLE EXPLAINED, THE HERRING POND RESERVATION "WAS FORMERLY COVERED WITH WOOD, WHICH HAS ALL BEEN CAUGHT OFF, AND BEING PITCH PINE LAND, NONE OF THE NEW GROWTH HAS ATTAINED SUFFICIENT SIZE FOR CUTTING, NOR WILL IT FOR SOME TIME TO COME, AS A FIRE RAN OVER THE PORTION OF IT ON WHICH WAS THE LARGEST GROWTH, A FEW YEARS SINCE, AND DESTROYED THE WOOD WHICH WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO CUT" (EARLE 1861:69)
SELF-DETERMINATION AND PRESERVATION OF LAND AND CULTURAL HERITAGE TODAY

❖ THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE NOW TAKES ON THE CHALLENGE OF PRESERVING WHAT REMAINS OF OUR HISTORICAL RESERVATION LANDS. AFTER THE 1850 ALLOTMENT, OUR RESERVATION LANDS WERE GREATLY DIMINISHED. OF THE THREE SEPARATE PARCELS OF RESERVATION LAND (A TOTAL OF 3,000 ACRES), MUCH OF IT HAS BEEN LOST, TAKEN, OR SOLD, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO THE TRIBE.

❖ THE PLACES OF EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL, SPIRITUAL, AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO US—OUR SACRED PLACES—INCLUDE OUR ANCIENT BURIAL GROUNDS, SUCH AS THE DINA PATH TRIBAL CEMETERY IN THE CEDARVILLE AREA OF PLYMOUTH, ON A 6-ACRE PARCEL OF LAND THAT WAS RESTORED TO THE HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE IN 2019. IN ADDITION, OUR HISTORICAL PONDVILLE MEETING HOUSE AND CHURCH--WHICH REMAINS UNDER OUR AUTHORITY--IS A SACRED CENTER OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY LIFE.
HERRING POND
WAMPANOAG PONDVILLE
MEETINGHOUSE

- BUILT FROM AN 1838 TRIBAL PETITION TO THE COMMONWEALTH
- THE PONDVILLE INDIAN MEETINGHOUSE AND CHURCH WAS THE CENTER OF TRIBAL EXISTENCE AND CHRISTIANITY THROUGHOUT THE 20TH CENTURY, AND REMAINS SO TODAY

IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIVE NORTHEAST PORTAL
PETITION OF JOHN CONET AND OTHER HERRING POND INDIANS TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

The undersigned inhabitants of the Plantation of Herring Pond and Indians, being poor, and people of colour, have cause to represent that they are destitute of a school house, and nowhere to send their children to school, formerly we sent them to school house owned by white people, but paying therefor supporting the school in part we are now deprived of that privilege in part, although we have but a small number of children bound to school yet we feel anxious about them and wish to give them some education, that they may be useful citizens and not a burden - we have an old meeting house very much out of repair, and standing in our congregation place it is not fit to hold meetings in during winter, it was built we believe nearly a century ago, it was repaired by the state nearly thirty years ago, and since此种 the abandonment a much repair was put upon it — we desire therefore and need it also in the meeting house, and build a small school house, which would much better accommodate us for a place to hold our meetings, and
19TH CENTURY PONDVILLE MEETINGHOUSE
THEN AND NOW!!
WHAT DOES TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE MEAN TO US?
KINSHIP/RELATIONALITY

CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIGENOUS LIFEWAYS

RESPECT-RECIPROCITY-RESPONSIBILITY
PROTECTING LAND, WATER AND ALL OUR RELATIONS: THE POWER OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S KNOWLEDGE AND TEACHINGS

• “WHEN WE ARE ON OUR HOMELAND, THE ANCESTORS ARE WITH US” - MELISSA HARDING FERRETTI, CHAIRWOMAN, HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE; CO-INSTRUCTOR OF WGS 270 – INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP AND SELF-DETERMINATION (UMASS BOSTON) - SPEAKING TO STUDENTS IN SPRING 2020.


INDIGENOUS HOMELANDS -- INCLUDING RESERVATION LANDS: PLACES OF RESISTANCE, RESURGENCE, AND RENEWAL OF KINSHIP

• “RESERVATION SYSTEM” IN NEW ENGLAND A CENTRAL COMPONENT OF COLONIAL “INDIAN POLICY”: THE ATTEMPT TO TURN INDIGENOUS HOMELANDS INTO “COMMODITIES”, INTO SPACES OF EXPLOITATION, ALIENATION, AND PLUNDER; THE ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND DISMANTLE INDIGENOUS KINSHIP WITH THE LAND AND ALL RELATIVES (EG. ; THE IMPOSITION OF COLONIAL/RACIALIZED BOUNDARIES NOT TO BE DEFIED BY “THE INDIANS”); THE ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE THE NOTION THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE “CONQUERED” PEOPLES.

• RESISTANCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO “INDIAN POLICY” AND “RESERVATION SYSTEM,” AND TO THE IDEA OF “INEVITABLE DISAPPEARANCE” OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CONTINUED TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS TO, AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH, THEIR HOMELANDS, INCLUDING RESERVATION LANDS. THERE IS MUCH TO BE LEARNED ABOUT THIS FROM LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF HERRING POND WAMPANOAG PEOPLE TODAY, SUCH AS TRIBAL CHAIRWOMAN FERRETTI, JENNIFER HARDING (TRIBAL LINGUIST AND EDUCATOR), AND TROY CURRENCE (TRIBAL MEDICINE MAN). FROM THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE AND THE HOMELAND AS INSEPARABLE, NON-NATIVES MAY BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF PLACE, AND RESERVATION LANDS AS HOMELANDS WHERE INDIGENOUS RESURGENCE AND RENEWAL OF TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW.

• ANISHNABE SCHOLAR DEBORAH MCGREGOR (WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION, ONTARIO) HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THAT INDIGENOUS TEK IS NOT AN OBJECT OF STUDY, BUT A WAY OF LIFE – “THE GOOD LIFE,” OR MINOBIMAATISIWIN, IN THE ANISHNABE LANGUAGE (MCGREGOR BUILDS FROM WINONA LADUKE ON THAT POINT). MCGREGOR EXPLAINS: “MINOBIMAATISIWIN IS SO MUCH MORE THAN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HOW TO LIVE SUSTAINABLY. RATHER, IT IS LIVING SUSTAINABLY. IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH MOTHER EARTH, IT IS THE RELATIONSHIP ITSELF” (D. MCGREGOR, “TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE: AN ANISHNABE WOMAN’S PERSPECTIVE” IN ATLANTIS, VOL 29, SPRING/SUMMER, 2005).
IN MEMORY OF...
OUR ELDERS AND THE
ANCESTORS WHO
HAVE CROSSED OVER

THERE ARE MANY
MORE...

Verna May Harding
January 28, 1905 – September 6, 1994
AGED 89 YEARS

Phyllis (Harding) Hunt-Nixon
July 9, 1919 – September 1, 2019
AGED 100 YEARS
HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND GUESTS, SEPTEMBER SOCIAL TRIBAL MEETING - 2017 HERRING RIVER LOT
SOURCES/WORK CITED

❖ MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES, RESOLVES 1838, C.64, PASSED APRIL 17, 1838 - PETITION OF JOHN V. CONET AND OTHERS, INDIANS OF THE HERRING POND TRIBE, PRAYING AID TO BUILD A SCHOOLHOUSE. CHARLES MARSTON OF BARNSTABLE / PETITION OF SUNDRY HERRING POND INDIANS FOR AID TO BUILD A SCHOOLHOUSE. SENATE. MARCH 29, 1838. REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION. CHARLES CALHOUN, CLERK


❖ PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL LABORATORY PAL - REPORT NO. 677

❖ HERRING POND WAMPANOAG TRIBE, PONDVILLE COLLECTION