Greetings Tribal family,

I wanted to bring awareness of a recent correspondence Tribal Council received from the Town of Mashpee Board of Selectmen regarding legislative bills sponsored in both the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate essentially emphasizing what is already in place; “Reaffirming our Reservation.” As it appears, the Town is concerned that specific language related to the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) was not built into the language of the Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation Act legislation.

In 2008 we cooperatively entered into an IGA to allay fears that the Tribe would bring a land claim against the Town and local landowners. In the decade that has passed since then, we have continued to honor every aspect of the commitments we made in that IGA -- and nothing has changed since the introduction of legislation that would protect our reservation.

The legislation introduced in Congress to protect and re-affirm our reservation land is consistent with the IGA, and if ultimately enacted will in no way modify or lessen the commitments we have made to the Town in the IGA. Our unwavering position is that by protecting our reservation and the status quo, the legislation also serves to protect the IGA.

Members of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe waited in the rotunda area inside the main entrance of the Wampanoag Government/Community Center building on Great Neck Road South on Saturday afternoon, April 21 for the arrival of Senator Elizabeth A. Warren. The Senator’s car pulled up right on time at 3 PM. She shook the hands of the members who met her and was offered many hugs, as she greeted each person individually before being escorted to the Wampanoag Health Service Unit for a tour. The purpose of Senator Warren’s visit was to tour the health service facility, and participate in a round-table discussion (which was closed to media) on the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency (CARE) Act which she and Representative Elijah E. Cummings (D-Maryland) introduced this week.

The opioid crisis which is devastating communities across the country has had a particularly severe impact on American Indians and Alaskan Natives, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The reservation of the Mashpee Wampanoag peoples lived in dozens of villages in and around the Cape Cod region and mainland southeastern Massachusetts.

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New Events

May 5 – 11:00 a.m.
Wampanoag New Year Celebration,
Old Indian Meeting House

May 8 – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
MWT Indian Education Public Hearing,
MWTCGC

May 13 - Mother’s Day
No General Body Meeting in
observance of Mother’s Day

May 15 - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Mashpee Town Elections, Parish of
Christ the King

May 20 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting and
Annual Budget Vote, MWTCGC

June 10 – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
General Body Meeting, MWTCGC

Weekly Events

NEW Monday – 11:00 a.m.
Crazy 8 Walking Club, MWTCGC

Monday – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Dancing Moon Yoga, MWTCGC

Tuesdays – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

Tuesdays – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Coed Volleyball, MWTCGC

Tuesdays – 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
WAYK (Where Are Your Keys?),
MWTCGC

Wednesdays – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Tribal Health Yoga Classes with Yoga
Neighborhood, MWTCGC

NEW Thursdays – 11:00 a.m.
Crazy 8 Walking Club, MWTCGC

Thursdays – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Elders Lunch & Learn, MWTCGC

Food Pantry Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Cultural Resource Monitor Training

The Tribal Historic Preservation Department needs Cultural Resource Monitors (CRMs). This work will be contractual, on an as needed basis. This is a great opportunity for Tribal members that are interested in our culture. Applicants should be experienced with the outdoors through hunting, fishing, map reading and demonstrate cultural knowledge. THPD has gone paperless in data communications; successful candidates must be ready or willing to learn digital file sharing, and computerized field equipment. The training will increase your traditional cultural knowledge to help you comfortably represent the Tribe on site.

Position Summary: Monitors are assigned to projects throughout the Wampanoag homelands to protect Wampanoag cultural resources during ground disturbing activities. These activities include construction sites, archaeological survey areas, cell tower construction, and various other construction related projects. CRMs are required to make daily written reports on all activities and findings to appropriate supervisor.

Required skills: Ability to work independently, sensible judgment and cultural sensitivity all of which must be professionally adhered to in order to carry out overall responsibilities. CRMs report to the Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) or designee. Additional training’s and occasional site supervision will be provided where necessary.

Interested applicants should contact Sharman Brown at (508) 477-0208 ext. 197 with questions.

The training will take place at Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office, 483 Great Neck Road South, Mashpee, MA 02649.

Important dates to remember:
Pre-Registration For CRM Training -
Deadline May 16, 2018
Initial CRM Training -
Start date May 21, 2018

MWT Indian Education Public Hearing

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Indian Education office invites you to attend a Public Hearing to gather input and recommendations on the school districts Title VI Indian Education grant application.

The public hearing is an opportunity for parents of Native American children and teachers, representatives of Indian tribes attending the school districts of Barnstable, Falmouth, Sandwich, Wareham, and New Bedford to receive services from Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s Indian Education office.

Light refreshments will be provided!

For more information, please contact
Kitty Hendricks-Miller at
508.477.0208 ext. 143
Gertrude.Hendricks@mwtribe-nsn.gov

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Community & Government Building/ Council Chamber
483 Great Neck Road-South
Mashpee, MA 02649
Tuesday ~ May 8, 2018
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Keturah Peters Delivers Ivy Native Council Conference to UPenn

Keturah Peters, a senior in the nursing school at the University of Pennsylvania, has attended seven Ivy Native Conferences throughout her collegiate career. However, this year’s Annual Ivy Native Council Spring Conference was particularly special for the soon to be graduate. Natives at Penn (NAP) – an organization that Keturah is closely involved with – had been selected to host this year’s conference.

“I made it a goal to bring this conference to UPenn, where it hasn’t been since 2013,” said Keturah. “I am beyond grateful for all the support I received from the Greenfield Intercultural Center and all of my close friends and extended family in Philadelphia. With very few members in Natives at Penn it was extremely difficult to plan a conference that consisted of fundraising, hosting, venues, food, speakers, and travel. On top of rigorous class schedules and work. It has been one of my most rewarding moments to have these Native Students express how great of a conference it turned out to be.”

The annual conference was held at the University of Pennsylvania from April 6 to April 8. Each semester one of the eight Ivy League Schools is chosen to host the Ivy Native Summit in the Fall and another school hosts it in the Spring. Each conference brings together about 150 Native and/or Indigenous Students from Ivy League and surrounding prestigious institutions.

The 2018 theme for the conference was “Navigating Two Worlds.” The conference featured speakers and conversations focused on the challenges Native Americans face in these higher institutions, how to thrive within these spaces, and how to transfer those skills, abilities and experiences to make a positive impact on Indian Country.

“I think one of the greatest take away from conferences such as these are the expanded community that it creates. As Natives in Ivy Leagues schools, we face very similar challenges within school and within our communities and it is important that we come together to share those experiences and to support each other,” said Keturah. “I am hoping that our conference was empowering and inspiring and allowed students to get to know each other and form long lasting connections.”

Chairman’s Column (continued)

There have been many productive outcomes of our relationship with the town. We have offered to help pay for road repairs due to storm damage, helped town officials expand shellfish propagation, improve water quality and protect the Mashpee shoreline. We provide mutual aid between our tribal police and town police; have secured funding to develop housing for elders, and we have made our Tribal Government & Community Center available during storms for shelter to all Mashpee residents, for professional development training for town teachers as well as numerous other non-tribal public events.

I want to assure our Tribal Citizens that we will reach out to the Town to address its concerns in a respectful and meaningful manner, and will provide updates to the Tribal membership.

Kutâputunumuw!

Chairman Cedric Cromwell
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)