

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

2024 JUL 29 AM 9:39

DATE RECEIVED

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of
Bristol: The undersigned hereby respectfully
requested of your Honorable Body that:



7/29/24

Please find, attached, a Petition for
a Sowa's Land Acknowledgement, along
with supporting documents.

Requesting time on the Aug 21 Agenda
for presentation of the Petition.

Respectfully,
Tony Morettini

PLEASE NOTE:

Please ensure that your petition is submitted
by 4:00 PM, two (2) Wednesdays before the
Town Council meeting scheduled for
Aug 21, 2024
in order to be included on the docket. Ac-
cording to Council policy, petitions cannot
be addressed unless recommendations, if
needed, from the relevant departments are
received before the Council meeting

SIGNATURE: Anthony B Morettini
NAME: Anthony B Morettini
ADDRESS: 46 Highland Rd
TOWN: Bristol
BUSINESS TEL. NO. _____
RESIDENCE TEL. NO. _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Honorable Members of the Council,

I am requesting your consideration and adoption of a "Land Acknowledgement," below, that simply acknowledges the historical fact that we live in a place the Pokanoket Tribe has inhabited and called their ancestral home, Sowams, for thousands of years. In addition, I am requesting you develop a town wide usage guideline for the Acknowledgement. So this Petition is in 2 Parts:

Part 1: Adopt the following 3 sentence Land and Water Acknowledgement as the Town of Bristol's, recognizing our history as a place, and pledging to continue to work and partner with the Pokanoket Tribe for the benefit of our land and water, which are so important to us as Bristol residents.

"Welcome to Sowams, the home of the Pokanoket Tribe for over ten thousand (10,000) years prior to settler colonization.

We acknowledge that our community was a part of the larger ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe, and we recognize the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous People and their traditional territories.

As the place of Metacom's Seat, at the base of Potumtuk (Mount Hope), let this acknowledgement serve as a reminder of our ongoing responsibility to recognize, honor, reconcile and partner with the Pokanoket Tribal people for the benefit of the lands and water of Sowams."

Part 2: Develop a policy/guideline for promulgation of the Acknowledgement. Once adopted, ensuring it is widely communicated is essential to residents and visitors understanding its importance. You are, of course, free to do what you'd like, here, but some ideas from what others nearby have done may be helpful:

- Warren was the first town in the East Bay to have a Land Acknowledgement. They have erected signage with the Acknowledgement and additional historical context on the front lawn of their Town Hall. I've attached pictures of it. I'd think we'd want to do something like this, somewhere appropriate in town, for residents and students, and also for visitors, who are interested in our long history to read and enjoy.
- Barrington has no signage, but begins their Town Council Meetings with their Land Acknowledgement.
- Distribution to Commissions, Boards, and Committees for use as they see fit in their meetings would seem to be a logical next step.

Again, these are just ideas. The first and last seem like "easy" ways to make the Land Acknowledgement widely known, and will provide benefit to our residents and visitors in fairly short order.

I have also attached 5 letters of recommendation for the Land Acknowledgement's adoption. They are from the Sachem of the Pokanoket Tribe, Tracey "Dancing Star" Brown, the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, Save Bristol Harbor, the Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project, and the Bristol Warren Regional School District. As you may know, the District is working on incorporation of Pokanoket history into the Civics and History curriculum. The Land Acknowledgement will be a key piece of this learning.

So I'm respectfully requesting 15 minutes on the August 21 agenda to talk about this petition and answer any questions you may have. We will be joining East Providence, Barrington, Warren, and other organizations and locations in the East Bay in acknowledging our place's history. I am fairly certain Tracey "Dancing Star" Brown, will be joining us, and it would be wonderful if you could hear from her, as well, as part of my presentation.

Respectfully,


Tony Morettini

46 Highland Road



July 2, 2024

Dear Members of the Bristol Town Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Pokanoket Tribe to express our support in providing a Bristol Land and Water acknowledgement. As stewards of both Sowams and our ancestral heritage, we deeply appreciate your recognition of the importance of honoring the rich cultural and historical legacy of our tribe and its connection to this land and its waterways.

The Pokanoket Tribe has a profound and enduring connection to this region since time immemorial. Our ancestors lived, thrived, and maintained a harmonious relationship with these lands and waterways long before the arrival of European settlers. More specifically, the lands of Bristol, including the historic areas along the shores of Mount Hope Bay, hold significant cultural, spiritual, and historical importance to our people.

Most notably, Mount Hope being the seat of the Massasoit Ousamequin, a revered leader who played a crucial role in the early history of the United States of America and established peaceful relations with the Pilgrims. It is the place where King Philip and many of our ancestors died and where pivotal events in our history unfolded. This sacred site is not just a landmark but a testament to our enduring presence and the profound legacy of the Pokanoket people. Our tribe's relationship with the land and water is intrinsic to our identity, culture, and traditions.

We are committed to working collaboratively with the Town of Bristol to ensure that our shared history is honored and preserved. By acknowledging the significance of the Pokanoket Tribe's historical ties to these lands and waterways, you help foster a deeper understanding and respect for our cultural heritage within the broader community and an overall pride in the history of the Town of Bristol itself.

Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude for your support.

Warm regards,

Sachem Po Pummukaonk Anogqs
Pokanoket Tribe/Pokanoket Nation



May 8, 2024

Town Council
Town of Bristol
10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809

RE: Bristol Land Acknowledgement

Dear Chairman Calouro:

I am writing on behalf of Save Bristol Harbor to convey our full support of the Bristol Land Acknowledgement initiative to recognize that we live on land and enjoy the waters of the ancestral homeland of the Pokanoket Tribe. This effort to honor, reconcile and partner with the Pokanoket Tribal people for the benefit of the lands and waters is fully consistent with Save Bristol Harbor's missions and goals. As self-described stewards of the waters of Bristol Harbor, it is our hope that we can achieve some semblance of what the Pokanoket people were so successful at doing for over 10,000 years. Please consider adopting this initiative.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'Kevin Beaulieu'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kevin Beaulieu
President, Save Bristol Harbor



BRISTOL MIDDLE PASSAGE PORT MARKER PROJECT

PO Box 871 Bristol, RI 02809 bmpmp.org bristolmiddlepassage@gmail.com

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HONORARY
JODY & BILLY ANDRADE

10- April 2024

To: The Honorable Bristol Town Council

From: Bristol Middle Passage Port Marker Project

Re: Pokanoket Land Acknowledgement

We strongly urge members of the Council to introduce each public meeting of the various Boards and Commissions representing the Town in community matters, that a brief and formal verbal acknowledgement be made to the Indigenous people who came before us. This is a precedent that has been in place in other municipalities throughout the State, including nearby Warren and Barrington. Let us join with our sister communities in this practice.

By briefly stating the acknowledgement of the Pokanokets and other native peoples who lived here and were stewards of the lands we now occupy, it serves to pay proper respect toward these ancestors of Bristol, part of the Sowams nation.

On behalf of our Board of Bristol Middle Passage, we thank you for your consideration of this important gesture toward healing and reconciliation.

Sincerely,

Stephan Brigidi,
Board Member



BRISTOL HISTORICAL AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY
48 Court St., P.O. Box 356, Bristol, RI 02809

Telephone (401) 253-7223
www.bhpsri.org

April 26, 2024

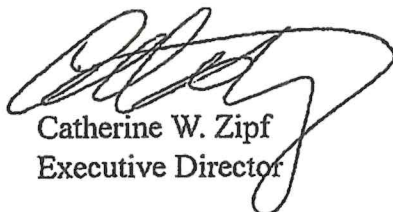
To the Committee:

I am delighted to offer my enthusiastic support for the Bristol Land and Water Acknowledgement proposed by Mr. Tony Morettini. The Land Acknowledgement offers important insight into a key part of Bristol's history, specifically that surrounding its founding years. The acknowledgement will call our continuing and sustained attention to this long overlooked history, to the benefit of our community.

Bristol's founding is extraordinarily unique in that it was the result of a complex set of events tied to the conflict known most commonly as King Philip's War. King Philip's War pitted multiple groups, white and Native, against their brothers; its legacy continues to be felt and remains a source of hurt today. Mr. Morettini's land acknowledgement provides an important reminder of the larger context from which our town was born and charges us to take responsibility for the stewardship of our town in ways that recognize, honor, partner, and reconcile with all the stakeholders of this history. We, as a community, should strive to achieve this goal.

Thank you very much for offering me the opportunity to comment on this important work. I look forward to positive impact the Land Acknowledgement will have on our community.

Sincerely,



Catherine W. Zipf
Executive Director



BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

235 HIGH STREET, 2nd FLOOR, BRISTOL RI 02809

WWW.BWRSD.ORG (401) 253-4000

March 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor to write this letter of support for the Bristol Land and Water Acknowledgement proposed by Mr. Tony Morettini. This Land Acknowledgement will be a wonderful addition to the new Social Studies curriculum that is under development as we prepare for the implementation of the recently updated RI Social Studies Standards. The new standards have an increased focus on local colonial and Indigenous history and provide a wonderful opportunity for us to partner with local community groups and provide our students with access to the wealth of historical landmarks and resources available within our community.

This year our K-12 Social Studies Advisory Committee invited community partners from Sense of Pride, Bristol Historical Society, Warren Preservation Society, Roger Williams University, and community member Lane Sparkman to join us in shaping a vision for learning in local colonial and Indigenous history. Our committee also had the pleasure of meeting with Tracey "Dancing Star" Brown, sachem of the Pokanoket Tribe. We discussed key points in Pokanoket history and local landmarks that we would like students to know. The Land Acknowledgement will assist us in increasing student awareness of the history of the land around them and the diverse cultures that have evolved from the land on which they live.

I am very thankful for the work that Mr. Morettini is doing and I look forward to learning more about how this Land Acknowledgement will contribute to our schools and community.

Sincerely,

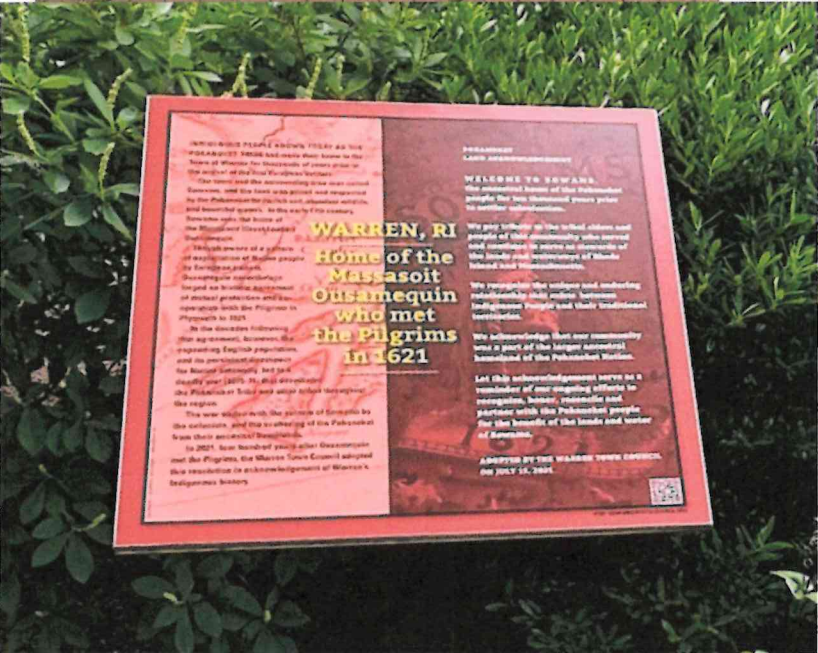
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Sanna".

Diane Sanna, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Bristol Warren Regional School District

Warren's Land Acknowledgement Plaque



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE CALLED THIS AREA THE MASSASOIT TERRITORY. THEY HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEAN COLONISTS.

The first and the accompanying first year contact between the two cultures was peaceful and respectful. The Pilgrims and the Massasoit people lived in harmony for many years.

In the decades following the agreement, however, the increasing English population and its agricultural practices led to the displacement of the Massasoit people from their ancestral lands.

In 2021, four hundred young people from Warren and the Pilgrims, the Warren Town Council adopted this resolution in acknowledgment of Warren's Indigenous history.

WARREN, RI Home of the Massasoit Ousamequin who met the Pilgrims in 1621

WARREN
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WELSHES TO SWANA
The ancestral home of the Pilgrims
people for two thousand years prior
to their arrival.

We recognize the culture and enduring relationship of the Massasoit people to this land, Warren, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

We acknowledge that our community was a part of the larger ancestral homeland of the Massasoit people.

ADOPTED BY THE WARREN TOWN COUNCIL
ON JULY 14, 2021



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
Tel. 401-253-7000
Fax. 401-253-2647
Email: Mcordeiro@bristolri.gov


MEMORANDUM

TO: Steven Contente
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Melissa Cordeiro
COUNCIL CLERK

DATE: July 31, 2024

RE: Anthony B. Morettini, 46 Highland Road re
adoption of Sowam Land Acknowledgement for usage
guidelines



May we please have your recommendation or the recommendation of the department head you deem appropriate in order for the Council to review the request at the Town Council Meeting to be held on **August 21, 2024**.

All items for this docket must be received in the Clerk's office by Wednesday, August 14, 2024. All and any items received after the deadline will be held until the next council agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation and prompt reply.

Attachments