

Town of Shutesbury, Massachusetts
WARRANT ARTICLE PETITION

Filed: March 22, 2017, 2:00 o'clock
Amended May 5, 2017

Resolution to
Preserve Native American Historical Sites and Traditional Cultural Properties

Whereas Shutesbury is rich in Native American Traditional Cultural Properties and Ceremonial Stone Landscapes (TCPs and CSLs, see *Town Master Plan*, Natural and Historic Resources section, and "A Quantitative Analysis of Stone Relics in a Western Massachusetts Town," *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society*, v. 77(2), 2016, www.oso-ah.org); and the Town of Shutesbury has no inventory of Native American ceremonial features, such as TCPs and CSLs; and because all Shutesbury residents are stakeholders in our shared historic heritage,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the citizens of the Town of Shutesbury, Massachusetts that:

We strongly encourage revision of the scope of preservation plans and mission statements to address inclusively the community's varied historic and prehistoric heritage features, particularly where they exist on public lands; and

We strongly encourage Shutesbury Historical Commission to apply for Massachusetts historic preservation grants and other potential grant(s) when and where they may be needed for this effort; and

We strongly encourage the Shutesbury Historical Commission (HC) to invite local avocational archaeologists to contribute their surveys and data, and to gather in reports of historic and prehistoric sites; and

The contributed inventory and condition assessments of TCPs and CSLs gathered in by the Historical Commission by the above process should be shared with those regional Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) who choose to participate; and

We strongly encourage the Historic Commission to invite participating THPOs to formalize designations of and suggest priority ranking for each reported Native American site, from which final designations the Historical Commission is strongly encouraged to prepare a scheduled inventory of prioritized preservation targets in the Town of Shutesbury, while taking measures to protect sensitive data; and

Private landowners will be permitted to apply with the Historical Commission to include assessment of their property or properties in this preservation effort, but private landowners shall not be compelled to include any property in this preservation effort; and

We strongly encourage the Historical Commission (HC), on its own or in concert with other bodies and volunteers, to initiate a plan to provide archiving of this preservation effort and interpretative materials for education, to the town library, and for use by the town to publicize this preservation effort and thereby receive benefit to town reputation, as well as cultural and economic benefit.