

Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation

*Arvid E. Miller Library Museum
N8510 Mohheconnuck Road
Bowler, WI 54416*

*Extension Office
86 Spring Street
Williamstown, MA 01267*

Town of Stockbridge Selectboard
50 Main Street
Stockbridge, MA 01262

July 21, 2022

Re: Statement of Indian Burial Ground interest

Dear Town of Stockbridge Selectboard:

Koonamunthe'ma. I am writing to request the Town's consideration of returning the "Indian Burial Ground" parcel of land in Stockbridge to the Tribe (shown on map attached).

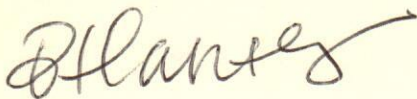
Our program has the official and sacred responsibility for our Nation to preserve our ancestral burial grounds and other cultural sites such as these in our Mohican homelands.

I am attaching the text of the 1809 land agreement by five Stockbridge-Munsee sachems wherein they state that this remaining area of our land in Stockbridge had not been relinquished and which they asked resident Dr. Oliver Partridge to assist in preventing the "soil from being removed that the bones our Ancestors may there lie undisturbed." This agreement was made under pressure of a planned road project and as a last resort to advocate for the grave site protection, while our Nation was being forced to remove further west.

It would be very meaningful and significant to, more than 200 years later, be able to restore this burial ground to our people.

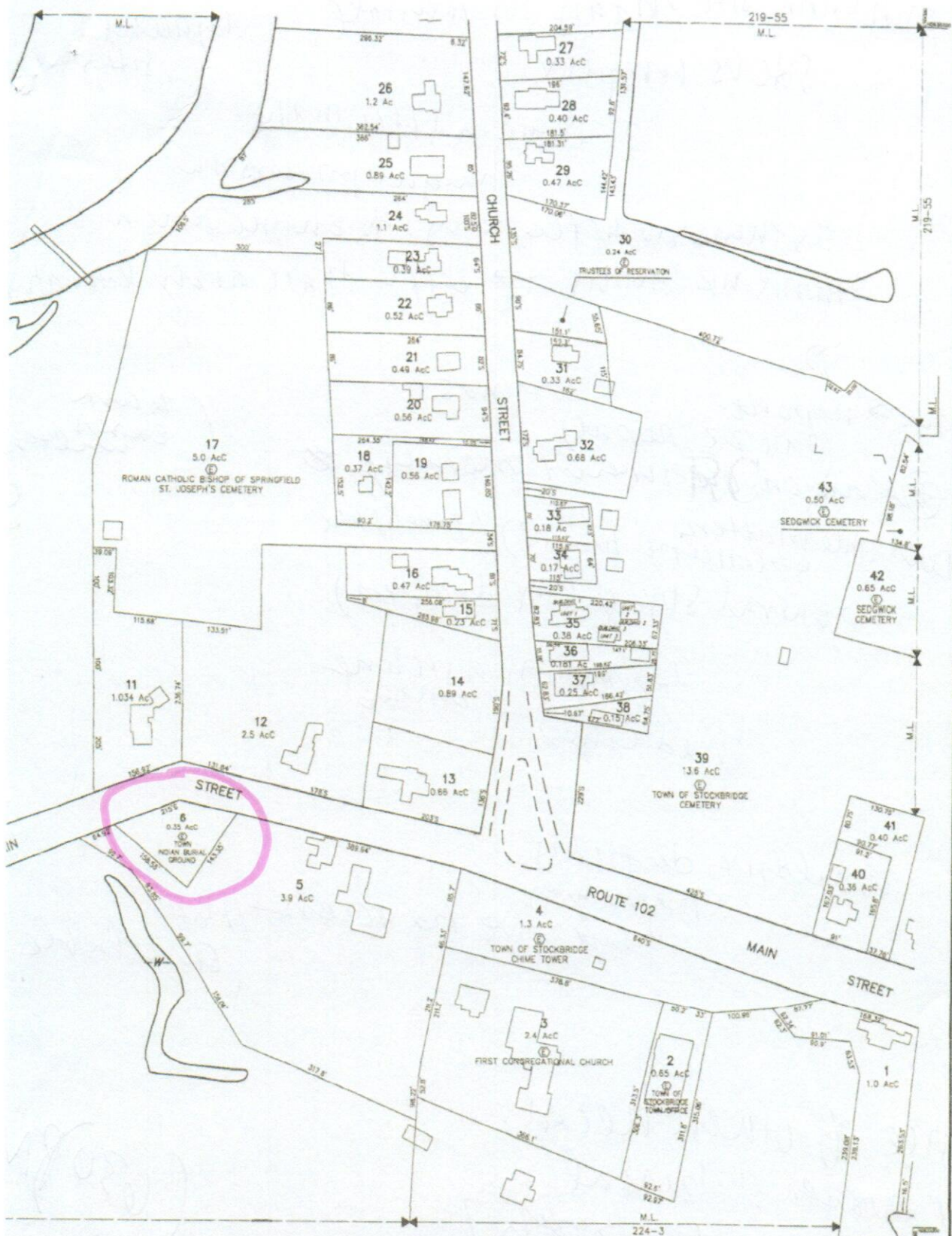
If the Selectboard discusses this topic at its upcoming meeting, I would kindly request to receive the meeting minutes and any outcomes in order for our program to prepare the background materials to take this item to our Tribal Council for approval.

Most sincerely,



Bonney Hartley
Tribal Historic Preservation Manager

Cc: Monique Tyndall, Director of Cultural Affairs, Stockbridge-Munsee Community



RESTRICTION E.T.Y. T. NO. ACCESS ESHIP	SCALE 1" = 100' FEET 0 50 100 200 300 METERS 0 50 100 200 300 REVISED TO : JANUARY 1, 2013	PROPERTY MAPS STOCKBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS	INDEX DIAGRAM 220 219 223 108 224 107	MAP NO. 105
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BOOK 50, PAGE 47

JOSEPH SHAUQUEATHQUEAT et als)
TO
OLIVER PARTRIDGE

DATE Feb. 8th 1809
Ack. Feb. 28, 1809
REC. Aug. 9th 1811

INSTRUMENT

Know all men by these presents that we, **Joseph Shauqueatheat, Hendrick Aupaumut, Solomon Q. Hendrick, Joseph Quinney, and John Metoxen, Sachems and Counsellors of the Muhhuonnut tribe of Indians who formerly were proprietors of the Town of Stockbridge** in the County of Berkshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts and some years since removed therefrom and who now reside in New Stockbridge in the State of New York. In consideration of ten dollars in certain services rendered our tribe by and the trust and confidence we place in our friend Oliver Partridge of Stockbridge aforesaid we do for ourselves and for our whole tribe hereafter relinquish to him our right to a certain piece of land lying in Stockbridge there called the **Indian Burying Ground lying west of the Town Square there so called and is fully described on their Town records reference thereto to be had which ground never has before by any of us or our forefathers been sold or any ways relinquished;** we hereby acknowledge the receipt of the services aforesaid and do by these presents quit claim, release and transfer to him the said Oliver Partridge our right and title to the aforesaid premises for the following uses and purposes, viz: That he may fence the same that he **may in every way prevent the soil from being removed that the bones of our Ancestors may there lie undisturbed** that he may plant trees round and over the same which trees are ever to be considered as the property of said Oliver his heirs or assigns and improve the same in any way except tilling or breaking up the sod or turf; we do hereby empower him as fully in his own right to sue for and recover as if held the premises by deed of warrantee for any strip waste or damage committed in any ways on the said premises; and we do hereby fully empower him to assign and transfer to others in trust and for the purposes and uses aforesaid the same right, and title to the said premises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and seals the 8th day of February in the year of the Lord one thousand eight hundred and nine.

Signed, sealed and delivered
In the presence of
Rastus Calvins
TOWN CLERK

Joseph Shauqueathqueat and seal
Solomon Q. Hendrick and seal
Joseph Quinney and seal
John Metoxen and seal
----- and seal