



# Truro Historical Commission

Truro Town Hall

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December 2, 2020

Truro Historical Society  
P.O. Box 486  
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RE: Native Peoples Committee Proposal

Dear Truro Historical Society Board:

The Truro Historical Commission enthusiastically supports the formation of a Native Peoples Committee for the Town of Truro as proposed by the Truro Historical Society. The activities of such a committee will visibly show the values of our community and respect for our history.

Clearly, there is need for a community-wide recognition of the Pre-European, Contact Period, also known as the Woodland Period when the Outer Cape was settled by Native Peoples.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Town Report for Truro, dated 1984 says the following:

“Native Americans had settled the Truro area for some time prior to European contact. Artifacts found within the town in general and known Late Woodland Period sites indicate the town area was extensively settled during this period. On the basis of known sites, the North Truro area appears to be a particularly intensive land use area during the Late Woodland period.”

Many visitors are unaware of this history often assuming that the Pilgrims were the first inhabitants of Southeastern Massachusetts, the Cape and the Islands. The Native Peoples Committee’s suggested mandate to identify, document, and recognize this important period of Truro’s history is essential if we are to honor the original inhabitants dispossessed of their lands by European settlers. It is also important that we honor the surviving Wampanoag Nation through the activities of the Native Peoples Committee. These proposed actions may only be symbolic, but we have an obligation as a community to incorporate symbols of respect and recognition of our native people forebears.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Kiefer  
Chair, Truro Historical Commission