

Inter-Tribal 2/2/04

**INTER-TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION TASK FORCE  
METING AT SHINNECOCK MUSEUM @ 1:00PM on Feb. 2, 2004**

PRESENT: Becky Genia, Ruben Valdez, Chief Harry Wallace, Louise Green, Beverlea Walz, George Stankavich, Tina Tarrant, Josephine Smith, Marvin Lee, David Collins, Elizabeth Haile, Randy King Absent: Paula Bess, Clay Carle

**Correspondence;**

Gaynell Stone has been contacted. She sent list of archaeologists.

Call Dr. Stefan ask him to interpret the carbon dating technical language.

**Discussion** – newspaper articles. Visit to S.I. 1/23/04: good presentations.

State Police were called for no apparent reason. Shinnecock Trustees will respond and inquire as to the problem.

Two letters were prepared. 2/27 Attorney General of NYS and District Attorney of Suffolk Co. were faxed letters of concern about desecration of ancient graves.

Letters were sent to Mr. & Mrs. Walter Richards and Police Chief Read, and Town Board of S.I.

**Action Items:**

Election of President and Secretary:

Motion: to elect president, secretary and treasurer. Motion carried. Nominations were opened. Becky Genia was nominated for president. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Elizabeth Haile was nominated for secretary. The vote in favor was unanimous.

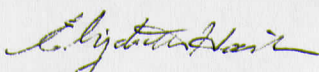
Paula Bess Collins was nominated, but declined by phone. Clay Carle was nominated. He will be contacted during the week for his comment.

Task Force Mission Statement draft was read aloud as was a draft of the letter requesting funds from the Smoke Shops Harry W. will edit them both before the next meeting.

The President and Secretary are authorized to open a bank account for the Task Force in Hampton State Bank, Southampton. Checks received in support of the Task Force will be deposited in this account.

George S. will make an appointment with Shelter Island Town Board for next week. A small delegation from the Task Force will attend the meeting bringing with them a draft of the ordinances suggested by the Task Force.

Update/ Contact is maintained with John Brown, Shinnecock Trustees, Montauketts and Unkachaugues.



E. Haile, secretary

# Vermont negotiates Abenaki cemetery

Montpelier, Vermont (AP)

The state is negotiating to buy land where the remains of Abenaki were unearthed during mid-May and find a new home for the Highgate couple who were building a house there.

A second hearing in Washington Superior Court to decide the issue was postponed during May as both parties - the state and landowners William and Tammy Bushey - continued to work out a deal, said Tina Ruth, the lawyer for the department of housing and community affairs.

"The owners of the lot and the department are negotiating for the department to purchase the lot and for the owners to find a new place to live," Ruth said. "We're in the process of working to achieve that. Everybody's working hard and everybody's being very cooperative."

The bones were found by an Abenaki

after the Busheys dug a foundation for a new house on the quarter-acre plot on the Missisquoi River. Officials with the state Division of Historic Preservation have confirmed that the remains were those of buried Abenakis.

The discovery has shaken up the Abenaki, who say they feel spiritually violated by the disturbance of what they say is their ancestors' burial ground. They have complained that leaving the remains exposed violates their burial traditions.

After the hearing, the Busheys, who claimed they were harassed by Abenaki who trespassed on their land, agreed to allow the state archaeologist and two Abenaki to rebury the remains, said Gregory Brown, Vermont's commissioner of housing.

In 1973, a burial ground with about 85 graves was discovered during construction of a house in a same area. The remains were not reburied until 1996.