

**Notes: Inter-Tribal Task Force Meeting
January 20, 2004**

Prepared to take S. Richards' statement of willingness to work with the Shinnecock Nation to resolve dispute: Attempts to speak w/E. Haile had not been responded to and the Richards' wanted to know exactly what was required of them

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Attempted to reach Suzanne Richards by phone

Suzanne was speaking with Elizabeth Haile at the time and Elizabeth relayed conversation points to the group

Not entirely clear why the Richards had poured footings & placed barn on site

Elizabeth:

quoted Walter as saying "I'm not going to do anything for a month"

(while waiting for carbon-dating results lg)

Suzanne said that moving the barn will cost a lot and they will not pay anymore

but will move barn if someone else pays (and finds a spot)

if you can get our original spot back, we will move the barn (location was too close to their neighbor)

not signing a lot of papers

the floor hasn't been poured yet (looking into alternatives lg)

Town Board did not receive letter requesting agenda spot at mtg. on Jan. 23rd

-Will call and send copy of request/place on agenda necessary

Press release sent to newspapers a.m.

Montauk Manor was a site on private land

Position paper will be written by task force/Harry look into D.E.C. report

Possibly Dr. Stefan could find location to relocate barn w/ground-penetrating radar

Would moving the building desecrate the graves further? (Rubin)

Knowledge to desecrate a known grave site is a felony in NYS public health law

OPRHP deals in public land

NAGPRA ... tribal and public land

"What makes anything ok with this?" (Harry)

There needs to be a town code for both historic and burial sites.

List of demands (Richards are waiting to hear what they should do ... thought they would have had guidance earlier from Shinnecock Nation. They say they tried to get in touch with E. Haile before barn footings were poured ... possibly, they could have sent a letter and their intention would have been recorded lg)

1/21/04 **Notes: Mtg. w/Supervisor Williams, Attorney Dowd, and the Richards
The ITTF is on the Board agenda for 4:30 pm on 23rd**

The Richards seek to amend the hard feelings, but state that they protected the bones and grave additions (sage, sweet grass, etc.) when covering the site (One or more Medicine Men were to "consecrate" the graveyard within a few days of October ceremonial burial /g)

The Board will join the Richards in seeking a peaceful solution

They will be given (today) a Historical Society map on Native American locations on Shelter Island derived through historic research, including previous sites of desecration, and a copy of Dr. Vincent Stefan's report

The Board is aware of a working relationship and interaction between representatives from SIHSoc and members of the Shinnecock Nation and members of the ITTF

It appears (lg) that the Richards had good intentions and were sensitive to the site and issues ... a point came where communication was broken. The barn footings were poured and the barn erected without the Society or the Shinnecock's knowledge. The Shinnecock Nation did not advise the Richards or answer calls. The Richards did not send them a letter informing them of the renewed construction plans.