

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, April 12, 2010
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM**

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Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Present were Selectpersons Patricia Pruitt; Patricia Allen, Mark Fairbrother; Town Administrator, Frank Abbondanzio; Administrative Secretary, Wendy Bogusz; David Detmold, Montague Reporter; Arn Albertini, Greenfield Recorder; Jeff Tirrell, WHAI

Approve Minutes of April 5, 2010

Fairbrother makes the motion to approve the minutes from April 5, 2010 with corrections. Seconded by Allen, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt – Aye

Liquor License Hearing, Holy Smokes, 52 Avenue A, Turners Falls, Wine and Malt Beverage Liquor License (Package Store)

Leslie Ekus: We will have local beer (working with Element) and 4 different wines that are good with barbeque sauce. It won't be very much. We hope to be open by mid May and probably before that.

Pam Kostanski is for Holy Smokes and is pleased they are coming to Town but is concerned that a package store license is being allowed directly across the street from another package store, wondered what the necessity is and doesn't believe abutters were notified.

Ekus explains that the abutters were notified and will be selling very limited and specialized product line and feels that the package store across the street will benefit from his business.

Allen makes the motion to recommend a new wine and malt package store license to Holy Smokes Limited doing business as Holy Smokes Barbeque Delicatessens with Leslie Ekus as Manager for 52 Avenue A Turners Falls and send it along to ABCC for their approval. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Tami Patenaude, Secretary, Newt Guilbault Baseball League, Request for Parade Permit for Opening Day of Season

Patenaude: I'm here to let the Board know the Newt Guilbault Baseball League is affiliated with Cal Ripken Baseball. Our opening day is scheduled for Sunday, May 2nd and would like to have our parade permit approved. Patenaude goes over scheduled highlights for the upcoming season

Allen makes the motion to grant a permit for public demonstration and use of public property for portions of Turnpike Road, Montague Street and Crocker Avenue for the Newt Guilbault Baseball League for their opening day parade from the high school to the ball fields on Crocker Avenue for May 2, 2010 with a parade beginning at noon and extending to 1:00 PM, the Chief has approved this form. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Doug McIntosh, Board of Assessors Representative, Request to place Optional Assessment of Farm Animal and Machinery Excise on Annual Town Election Warrant

McIntosh: There is a new option that was enacted last year in the Farm Animal Excise statute. It's a local assessment of farm animal and machinery excise option not to assess the excise. This is a request to place that assessment option on the annual town election warrant. The farm animal and machinery excise is assessed to individuals and non corporate entities physically engaged in agriculture or minors involved with youth agricultural programs such as 4H and Future Farmers of America. The excise is assessed at the rate of \$5.00/\$1000 of value. Under the new provisions the voters of a city or town may approve a referendum to have the assessors stop assessing the excise for subsequent years. It is the Board of Assessors opinions that the tax that is imposed is negligible as far as the amount of revenue we produce and is not sufficient to warrant the time and effort that is required to assess the value, produce the bills and collect the tax. If approved this would become in effect for the fall time.

Allen makes the motion that the question be put on the Town election ballot that Montague cease assessing the excise imposed under General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 8A pm certain animals, machinery and equipment owned by individuals and non-corporate entities principally engaged in agriculture. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Michael Muller, Request to use Montague Center Town Common, May Day Celebration

This is a request to place a may pole on the Town Common for the May Day Celebration

Allen makes the motion to grant a permit for public demonstration placing an object on the Montague Center Town common for the May Day Celebration for May 2, 2010 from 10:30 am to 12:00 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt - Aye

Questions about new permits that are now being used for use of Peskeomskut Park and MC Common

Native Americans Presentation, Elizabeth Perry, Doug Harris, Jonathan Perry

Abbondanzio: goes over handouts (Reconciliation Day 19 May 2004 – Montague, MA; Draft Conceptual Plan for the Great Falls Native Cultural Park; Native Cultural Park Concept Proposed Motions)

**D R A F T
CONCEPTUAL PLAN
FOR THE
GREAT FALLS NATIVE CULTURAL PARK**

A DRAFT PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A HERITAGE/CULTURAL TOURISM PROGRAM IN THE TURNERS FALLS AREA

**SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE
AND
THE NARRAGANSETT TRIBE AND THE WAMPANOAG TRIBE OF GAY HEAD (AQUINNAH)**

April 12, 2010

For review only: Subject to Final Approval by the Board of Selectmen and Tribal Elders

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Background

- The Reconciliation event – held on May 19, 2004 to commemorate the massacre at Turners Falls established a process by which the Town and the participating Native American tribes agreed to acknowledge the tragic events that had taken place on May 19, 1676 and to begin a process of spiritual healing and reconciliation.
- In the Reconciliation agreement, the Board of Selectmen and tribes “committed to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here.”
- The “bury the hatchet” ceremony and the continuing joint effort between the two tribes and the town to preserve the ceremonial landscape at the Turners Falls airport is an excellent example of how tribes and towns can work together to achieve common goals while respecting each others individual objectives.
- Over the past two years, in tribal dialogues with various divisions of the National Park Service, representatives of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the Mashpee Wampanoag have begun exploring a concept of “Preservation Tourism” as it might apply in the Turners Falls/Montague region. As envisioned by the tribes:

“Tourism that has multiple Preservation initiatives at its core may be uniquely suited to initiate and sustain a program of economic development based on a variety of preservation grants, scholarly conferences, and the planning of a network of theme tour trails and destinations. Themes that examine regional natural resources and interpretive geology; Tribal history and culture; the history of Indian/European interactions; and the region’s industrial history would serve as the foundation for a tourism program that informs as well as teaches the values of resource protection. Tourism marketing would be geared toward a local, regional, national and international clientele. Planning, funding and constructing the necessary conference, media, housing and transportation infrastructure is the broad foundation for this town/tribe economic development venture.”

- In September, 2008, a member of the Montague Board of Selectmen attended the USET Conference in Nashville Tennessee, and participated in a joint panel with tribal representatives, which included a discussion of potential opportunities for preservation tourism in the Turners Falls/Montague region. The participants concluded that the town and tribes share a significant mutual interest in promoting the region’s native culture in a program of heritage and cultural (preservation) tourism.

- In December, 2008, the keeper of National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Service, in its finding that the ceremonial stones site (Turners Falls Airport) is eligible for listing on the National Historic Register, also concluded that it made sense to incorporate that site into a much larger area encompassing existing National Register and National Register eligible sites in and around Turners Falls (see attached) including the Riverside Archeological District, Wissatinnewag, Hanneman site, Ceremonial Stones Site, as well as other sites located on East and West Mineral Hill and Wills Hill, portions of the Montague Plains and along the banks of the Connecticut River. This larger site, referred to as the “Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District”, would then be nominated for inclusion on the National Register.
- Representatives of the Town and the Narragansett and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) **have continued to meet** since the summer of 2009 and **are working** to develop a concept for the heritage/cultural tourism program. (**Updated**)
- A final concept for this proposed plan will be presented at the USET annual Conference for an endorsement by the twenty five Eastern member tribes.

Importance to the Nation and Region

- The development of a cultural/heritage tourism program that seeks to encourage greater understanding and awareness of the Northeastern Native American history and culture, specific to the tribes that inhabited our region for more than 12,000 years, will help to fill a major void that currently exists in our National educational curriculum.
- Few people are aware of the rich Native American heritage that is present here in Southern New England, and more specifically in the Connecticut River valley, a history and culture that is very different from that typically represented in a history of western Indian tribes, which itself is so often portrayed in stereotypical fashion.
- A cultural/heritage tourist destination in the Turners Falls area is considered appropriate and realistic given the wealth of heritage resources, representing both Native and Colonial (Deerfield) history, available in the region, which could be used in interpretative programming.
- The National Park Service has described the proposed “Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District” – recommended for inclusion on the National Historic Register – as a “large, connected cultural landscape that includes related historic sites, traditional cultural places and archeological sites.” This area contains evidence of more than 12,000 years of continuous habitation by Native Americans – a continuum extending from the period following the retreat of the great North American glacier to the King Philip’s War (1676-77) and beyond.

For continued presence of Native people, see [History of Northfield and They Were Here All Along, Native People in Southern New England](#). For extensive references to Native People throughout the Commonwealth, visit the Massachusetts State Archives, and view multiple volumes on microfilm.

- The larger Turners Falls area was also the location of key battles of the King Philip’s War (1676-77), and the massacre of Native peoples at the Falls. Old Deerfield and Northfield, within ten miles of Turners Falls, were also involved. The massacre was considered a turning point in the war, as Plymouth Colony continued to engage in warfare, while Massachusetts Bay Colony had withdrawn with negotiations for a peace treaty with the Wampanoag, Narragansett, Pocumtuck, Sokoki, Pennacook and Nipmuck underway. The massacre proved an end to these attempts however, and subsequent French, Native and English warfare continued in Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine well into the 18th century. Fighting also extended into Canada. See: [Captors and Captives: the 1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield](#).
- King Philip’s War has been referred to as America’s forgotten war, and with it the many important lessons that could be learned from it. Forgotten too is the rich Native American culture that had flourished in Southern New England region for more than 12,000 years, before the King Philip’s War. Following the completion of the war, Native peoples experienced a significant reduction in their sovereignty, with some tribes being totally subjugated and others being reduced to second-class status in their home territory – with their rights seriously diminished, though not altogether negated.
- As Schultz and Tougias (1999) have pointed out “Among the handful of seminal events that shaped our mind and continent, King Philip’s War is perhaps the least studied and most forgotten. In essence, the war cleared Southern New England’s native population from the land, and with it a way of life that evolved over a millennium. The Wampanoag, Narragansett, Nipmuc and other native populations were slaughtered, sold into slavery, or placed in widely scattered communities throughout New England after the war. In its aftermath, the English established themselves as the dominant peoples, - allowing the uninterrupted growth of England’s northern colonies right up to the American Revolution.” As important, the authors conclude: “King Philip’s War became the brutal model for how the U.S. would deal with its native population. Later names like Tippicanoe, Black Hawk’s War, the Trail of Tears, the Salt Creek Massacre, the Red

River War, and Wounded Knee all took place under the long, violent shadow of King Philip's War" The authors conclude that In removing King Philip's War from our history books, we became according to the rubric, destined to repeat it. And that we did with a vengeance."

- From the national standpoint, the King Philip's War, and the events leading up to it, is considered a critical element in our overall understanding of conflict and conflict resolution. For this reason, the partners believe that it is an area that warrants more in-depth research and discussion of this topic.
 - Shultze and Tougias (1999) also point to the obvious irony that exists between the somewhat stereotypical image of early relations with Native Americans at Plymouth Colony and the reality that existed just a half century later. "It seems particularly ironic, then, that Massasoit is seated prominently in our romanticized view of the first Thanksgiving, while the most graphic image of (King) Philip (also called Metacom) – the son of Massasoit – is (Philip's) skewered head on the end of a pike and placed along a major Plymouth thoroughfare for most of a generation."
- The authors conclude: "The real tragedy is how we came to embrace one image and lost the other."

Concept and Plan of the Native Cultural Landscape Park

- The proposed heritage/cultural tourism program will be focused on the creation of a "Native Cultural Landscape Park", the boundaries of which correspond roughly to the "Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District" that the National Park Service has determined is eligible for inclusion on the National Historic Register of Place
- Primary goals of the Cultural Park will be:
 - (1) **Preservation of Native Cultural sites** in that are currently listed or eligible for listing on the National Historic Register including the Riverside Archeological District, the Hanneman Site, the ceremonial stone site and other sites of related importance;
 - (2) Enhancement of the public's understanding and awareness of the area's rich Native American culture, particularly that of the tribes which inhabited Southern New England and this area for more than 12,000 years, through **Interpretive Exhibits, Programs and Activities**designed with – and informed by – Native American professionals in the Historic Preservation, Native Studies, Education, Linguistic, Museum and Art fields. Native partnership is crucial to these endeavors.
 - (3) Stimulation of economic development through a Program of **Heritage/Cultural Tourism**, which centers on the creative and performing economy and ecotourism.
- Preservation objectives will be achieved both through formal listing of the Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District on the National Register and through efforts to increase the public's awareness of the importance of Native Cultural resources through educational exhibits and programs offered in the park.
- Interpretive Exhibits, Programs and Activities will be provided at a central Visitors Center, at the Great Falls Discovery Center, at Re-created Native Villages, and at selected ceremonial stone sites.
- The main Visitors Center, office, research library and storage facility will be located at the Cumberland Farms site, initially in the existing building, renovated for this purpose. As funding becomes available, a new, more architecturally suitable facility would be constructed on the site.
- The Visitors Center would include three types of exhibits:
 - (1) A primary exhibit featuring the 12,000 plus year chronology of Native American history and culture in the region, from Paleo-Indian through the outbreak of the King Philip's War in 1676, into the 19th century. This exhibit would be centered on the Connecticut River (and its fertile floodplain) as a source of sustenance, transportation, commerce, communication and spiritual fulfillment. This story will also be supplemented by guided tours to a Living History exhibit: Northeastern Native American village, at a yet to be determined site.
 - (2) A special effort will be made to interpret the significance of the King Philip's War, both to the future of Native Americans in this region, following their end of the war in 1677 and to the development of attitudes and prejudices towards Native Americans that carried forward into subsequent generations and became institutionalized in U.S. policy.
 - (3) An exhibit recognizing the Reconciliation Ceremony/Signing of an Agreement between the town and the tribes in May 2004 will be featured. This will include video, photographic and other documents along with an interpretation of their significance. An exhibit that documents the listing of the Ceremonial Hill, details the National Historic Preservation Act and Amendment, introduces the Federally recognized tribes and their role in the 106 Consultation Process may go a long way to educating the public about the specific sites in Montague, but also greatly enhance their understanding of the Act and other historic properties and sites, and the role of the public and other agencies play.
- Working in cooperation with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, a small exhibit will be developed at the Great Falls Discovery Center which will focus on the

presence of ecological principles and sustainability in the way Eastern Woodland Native people used, related and continuing to relate to the Connecticut River and watershed.

- The Great Hall of the Discovery Center and Shea Theater will also be the location of classes and workshops, presentations and temporary exhibits relating to Native American history and culture. These could include a wide range of scholarly and other topics including: events of the King Philip's War, Oral history and genealogy, Native American Arts and Crafts, Native Music, Native Food and Cuisine and Native American Film Festival. This would include a screening of the film "Great Falls".
- The project will work with Northeast Utilities on the development of an exhibit at the Fish Viewing facility which describes and illustrates what the falls area was like prior to the construction of the dams when Native Americans fished for shad, sturgeon, eels and salmon.
- A Living History exhibit: Northeastern Native American village will be constructed at yet to determined, satellite locations that will be selected because of its historical significance. Possible locations include Wissatinnewag (fishing station), Cabot Woods near Rock Dam, and Smead Island. This village would interpret Native American life, and would include tribal customs, language, building technique indigenous to the region, social life, farming techniques, fishing and hunting, etc.
- Interpretive signage would be installed at selected sites along the river front and canal describing and illustrating significant historical events. These could include events associated with the King Philip's War and the Turners Falls massacre. A site located on the island between the canal and river may be developed as a burial site for Indian remains that are returned to the area pursuant to Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- A site along the Connecticut River would also be used, with the permission of Northeast Utilities, for the annual pow wow and Inter-tribal and public canoe racing competitions, which would attract the best of American and Canadian competitors.
- Guided Native canoe tours above and below the falls would also be offered. These could include visits to islands used by Native Americans in early history at Smead and others known for Eagle habitat, within established Federal and State guidelines designed to protect this species.

Implementation Plan

- Due to the size, scope and complexity of this concept, and the likely funding requirements, it is recognized that implementation will require several years.
- It is assumed that the plan will be implemented in at least three phases, over a five to ten year period.
- **Phase One:** Years One - Three. This phase will focus on
 - (1) Developing the organization and management capacity, necessary to implement this project. An effort will be made to build upon the existing institutions and capacity developed in conjunction with the Discovery Center and River Culture Program.
 - (2) Achieving buy-in by prospective partners (Narragansett Tribe, Wampanoag at Gay Head Aquinnah Tribe, Mashpee Wampanoag Wissatinnewag, the affected municipalities, Massachusetts DCR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Northeast Utilities etc.) is considered a crucial component of this project. This would include conducting the necessary negotiations with the towns to ensure that their economic development needs as well as those of the tribes are consistent with the preservation plans being proposed.
 - (3) Performing the necessary feasibility studies and marketing analyses, to flush out the concept being presented in this document and to validate assumptions; identifying alternative development schemes, developing cost estimates, and identifying funding strategies.
 - (4) Developing programs, activities and events in conjunction with the River Culture Program (pow wow, canoe races, educational workshops and seminars at the Discovery Center, guided tours (ceremonial sites, canoe trips to islands etc.) and Native American Film Festival.
 - (5) Securing ownership of the Cumberland Farms building from the State.
 - (6) Securing funding for the development of interim use of the Cumberland Farms building as an exhibit center and implementing this strategy.
 - (7) Conducting major fundraising activities to identify sources of funding for major capital expenditures and the annual operating budget.
- **Phase Two:** The second phase (Years Four and Five) will focus on more capital intensive work, including securing the funds needed for implementation and operation.
 - (1) Implementing design development for the preferred development scheme.
 - (2) Fund Raising for preferred scheme.

- (3) Architectural Design for Permanent Exhibit Center and Replica Villages.
 - (4) Construction of smaller capital items (interpretive signage, including those developed in conjunction with other partnerships).
- **Phase Three:** The third phase (Years Six through Ten). Implementation of the full capital plan including the construction of a permanent exhibit center, replica villages and exhibits.

Local, State and Private Commitments

- The Town of Montague is committed to continue its work with the Native American Tribes consistent with the principles endorsed by the Board of Selectmen in the Reconciliation Agreement, including the delineation of boundaries for the Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District that recognize both the importance of historic preservation and the town's economic development needs.
- The Town will support the Narragansett and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) in their efforts to submit a National Register nomination for the "Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District".
- The Town will assist the tribes in securing funding from governmental and non-governmental (foundations) sources to conduct the necessary planning and feasibility studies, including marketing analyses, for the proposed "Native Cultural Park".
- The Town will work with the Tribes to secure, from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Cumberland Farms site for a Park Visitor's Center.
- The Town will work with the Tribes to secure federal, state and other funding for the design and construction of Park components.
- The Town will work with the Tribe to develop a Heritage/Cultural tourism program that will help to ensure the preservation of important Native American resources while at the same time promoting the town's and tribe's economic development goals.

Impact of the Project

- Enhance the public's awareness of the rich Native Cultural heritage that exists here in the Connecticut River Valley and in Southern New England.
- Create a National Model for Native American cultural/heritage tourism.
- Promote a greater understanding of the Native American role in the early development of our Nation and how many of attitudes and prejudices, and patterns developed during this period helped to influence future U.S. policy towards Native Americans.
- Encourage the development of a pro-preservation attitude with respect to the Native American historical and cultural resources.
- Stimulate the development of cultural/historic tourism in the region as a major prong of our economic development program consistent with earlier plans – attracting regional, national, and international visitors.
- Create spinoff development opportunities in the hospitality industry and creative economy and ecotourism, as envisioned in the towns and tribe's economic development plans and plans for the Northern Tier.

Harris: It is an honor to be here and be a part of this moment in history. The events that took place on May 19, 2004 are considered by the tribal community to be very powerful historic events, both historical and spiritual. I want to underscore too little is known about the events in history in this area. There is a need for historians and academicians who have concerns about history to be brought to this area, to walk the places of the history and where appropriate, to sit down and debate the issues of the history of this area. This is an opportunity to bring some of the concepts that we know that work, pow wows for instance draw people and lots of money to where ever they exist. It's our expectations that a commercial pow wow would be something we would introduce as part of this package. This means creating a time and a place where dancers, drummers and vendors from various tribal communities would be able to come and gather and do what they do during a pow wow. The public would be invited as well as regional tribes, tribes out West, tribes across the boarder in Canada. It would be an opportunity to create academic venues where historians and others can come in, geologists, whatever the specialization would be for this area and having walking tours and lectures. It would be great to be able to have this as a place where academics come to debate the issues of King Phillips war, the geology of the area; there are all kinds of possibilities.

J. Perry representatives of Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah): Although this report is a draft, I think it is a model for something that is seriously lacking country wide and I commend everyone at the table and the Town for embracing this and participating in the process. It probably should be documented all the way through because it could be used as a model and there will be a lot of people interested. People tend to be caught up in the after effects and have not come to terms with

it. There are thousands of years of rich history that should be celebrated and remembered, it's not just tragedy or bad events or wars, but also the stories leading up to that.

E. Perry: It would be lovely if years down the road there were younger folks who were very well conversed with the history of the region, state or the New England Region but comfortable with each other, people with different cultures, that comes from different areas who could come together and easily discuss, find answers and be willing to share.

Pruitt: The reconciliation ceremony was an important event my life, little did I know where it would lead us having participated in it, here we are some distance down the road from where we started and I think building on what was happening on that momentous occasion.

Allen: I'm really struck by what has come about from that day. There has been a huge change in Montague particularly Turners Falls since the reconciliation day, I doubt it all has to do with that in itself, but I think the willingness to be open and to try things has really made a difference. I really like the conceptual plan although it may need to be tweaked. We have some premier geologists in the area, people who have done very well with the colonial piece, but I feel as though this was the missing piece that is getting put into the Franklin County Region. I agree with Frank, I don't think it will happen overnight but I think most of us are willing to see where it will go. Thanks to Frank for all the work he has done on this.

Pruitt: Is very pleased and this is a nice development for our River Culture Program and is a good fit. It looks like the Towns inclination and your visions are moving together.

Fairbrother: When I was growing up in grade school, there wasn't very much in the curriculum about local Native American history, with the unfortunate exception being in Deerfield. We all learn as we go along and it has been long known and underappreciated, generally that we know Native Americans have been in the area for 12 to 13,000 and because of the confluents of the rivers, geology, fish runs and everything like that, this was a very important place. There is a rich Native American history in this area and I think something, some well done program would be a good thing for the area, and everyone should support this.

Further discussion about several different items.

Fairbrother: I see potential for some positive things. The cultural history should be displayed or celebrated. At this time I will not support the two initiatives with regret because the last 4 – 5 years, the going-ons, processes at the Turners Falls Airport have painted a different picture and there are issues up there that I can't with good conscious support this yet in its current very nebulous form. As we sit here this afternoon, if you didn't know it, that project is still on hold, nothing is happening up there because of the Native American concerns. If the public didn't know it, that project was fully permitted and stopped two years ago because of Native American concerns. We, the Town were under the threat and probably continue to be under the threat of lawsuits from the contractor as an out growth largely of Native American concerns. Had that project been completed two years ago in its original form, by now, parts of that project that were in place two years ago, that are no longer in place now, including the infrastructure for more hangers at the airport. By now this town would be receiving additional income from that airport that we are not getting and will never recoup. Meanwhile, Native American representation at the airport are and have been in the process of being paid tens of thousands of dollars for their consultation at the airport, while this town loses money every month as a result of that consultation. With all those things considered, I cannot support this, I'd love to support what is being proposed in some form, but I'm here to look out for the Town.

Harris: Respects Marks position. On behalf of the tribes, that the federally recognized tribes have a government to government relationship with the United States Government and all of it's agencies. The FAA is one of those agencies; it has in the past, not had to deal with how it must protect and move forward its responsibilities to the U.S. Government with regard to the National Historic Preservation Act as it applies to tribes. Fortunately or unfortunately, a year or year and a half after this ceremony this airport development popped up, we were asked to participate and consult in it. We began doing so, but in that process the hill that was going to be used for fill was determined to be a ceremonial site which was confirmed by the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately, FAA did not have the protocol in place to accommodate their responsibility to the protection of significant cultural resources of federally recognized Indian tribes. There has now been worked out a set of protocols with them that looks at all the ways moving forward with hurdles and problems and what has been built into that set of protocols is how you check and move forward without stumbling. We did a lot of stumbling, we meaning all of us in this airport project because it was new ground and nobody knew how to play this game. What had not been worked out is how you work the two in concert with each other. How you work the efficiency of the movement of the development process as you work out the thoroughness necessary for the historic preservation process by federal law. The protocols are in place now. The reason the project is being held up right now, is because the people

who schedule the process had scheduled the process and had not gone back to look at what the protocols call for. You don't go onto the project without understanding the safety rules are. I just wanted you to know that there was an improper game plan in place and unfortunately we all had to learn while we were playing the game. We extended ourselves much further than we normally would in order to try and keep the process moving forward. There were a lot of times when we should have called time out. With FAA we worked out a set of protocols, time out had to be called because we were about to jump back into the field with the archeologist with out having begun the process of working through the protocol so we don't make the mistakes that we made over the last 2 – 3 years. In closing, one of the key mistakes we encountered was an archeological scope of work had been developed and approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that did not take into consideration the most significant event that has happened in terms of preservation at that airport, and that is the determination by the keeper of National Register of Historic Places that there is a sacred site at that airport. That is a federal determination and how the archeologist could make up a game plan for what they would do with out even mentioning that is an indication that there is a scope of work that is doing business as usual as opposed to business as it has now been mandated by the Federal government. It is my understanding that schedules are being set up, protocols are being assessed to see how we move forward. We don't want to hold up progress with your airport, we want you to get your airport as quickly as possible so you can get on to the business of you community well being, your economic well being. As much as we love being in Turners Falls, we have projects that are crying for us in other places. FAA says this will be the model they will follow from now on anytime their Tribal Cultural Resources that are in question, because they have learned and we have learned from all the mistakes that were made in the class of three different cultural forms. We don't perceive that the tribes are at fault in this process, we don't point a finger at anyone in this process, it is the meshing of the gears of three different cultural ways of doing things, tribal, corporate, construction.

Allen makes the motion to endorse the concept of a Native Cultural Park in Turners Falls/Montague and to support efforts to seek funding for a comprehensive feasibility study. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved 2 - 1 Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother – Opposed

Allen makes the motion that the Town of Montague work with the Native Tribes on the development of a Native Heritage/Cultural Tourism Program in Turners Falls/Montague under the umbrella of the River Culture Program. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved 2 – 1. Allen – Aye, Pruitt – Aye, Fairbrother – Nay

Town Administrators Report

Updates:

- Looking to go live on May 3rd with the Towns website. I've been busy updating village info, the site will continue to improve as we have more photos and information available.
- Hoping to have the budget with a narrative analysis put on the site also, will be advertising the Montague Center School RFP as well as the one for Strathmore

Allen: Tuesday, April 13th will be a pre annual meeting/explanation about the potential ambulance service for the Turners Falls Fire District at Hillcrest School.

TOMEA and Police UE Negotiations are tomorrow

Next meeting will be April 26, 2010

Allen makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. Seconded by Fairbrother, approved unanimously. Allen – Aye, Fairbrother – Aye, Pruitt Aye