



Land Acknowledgement in Hamilton-Wenham

A Proposal by the Hamilton-Wenham Social
Justice Club

For Example:

We all live on Indigenous land. We would like to acknowledge the Massachusett Tribe. The tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts have taken their name. We would like to pay our respect to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusett Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historical Massachusett Tribe territories to this day.

-From Thomas Green, VP of the Massachusett Tribe



What Is a Statement of Land Acknowledgement?



“Land Acknowledgements are a simple, powerful way to show respect to the original inhabitants of the land where you are currently standing, presenting, about to engage in an activity, etc. The MCNAA believes that this is a meaningful step toward honoring the truth, making the invisible visible, and correcting the American stories that erase indigenous people’s tribal history and culture.”

-Massachusetts Center for Native American

Awareness



Why Should We Do It?

- “It’s all in the past”
- Tragedy shouldn’t be erased
- Reflecting can inspire action
 - Personally
 - In others
- Direct connection to local history

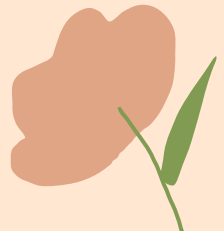
Clarifying Diagram

Nanepashmet, Sac'hem of the **Massachusetts Tribal Nation**

Pawtucket (one band of the Massachusetts Tribal Nation)

Masconomet served as Sagamore (lesser Chief or War Leader) of the **Agawam**. They were one of many bands of the Pawtucket and paid tribute to *Nanepashmet*

Acknowledging the Massachusetts is
acknowledging the Pawtucket and Agawam



Adoption in Our State

Depending on the jurisdiction, adoption elements may include Land Acknowledgement spoken at public events/meetings, permanent signage or markers, website presentations, course curriculum, and ongoing meetings and partnerships with local Indigenous communities.

Municipalities: Great Barrington, Winchester, Salem

Elementary/Secondary Education: Mashpee Public Schools, Lexington Public Schools, Brooks School, Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children, Phillips Academy, Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District

Higher Education: Framingham State University, College of the Holy Cross, Harvard University, Berklee College of Music, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Emerson College, Amherst College, Hampshire College, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, UMASS Amherst, Springfield College, Boston University, Northeastern University, Tufts University

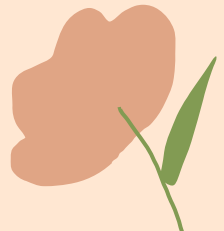
Requests



- Physical marker at Town Hall
- Plaque at Pingree Park
- Statement on the Town website
- Reading the Massachusetts Tribe's acknowledgement before community gatherings and major events.

Examples might include:

- Town meetings, flag raisings, civic events such as Veteran's and Memorial Day celebrations
- Virtual events are included
- Funding will be provided by the HWSJC



Proposed Statement

We all live on Indigenous land.

The Town of Wenham would like to acknowledge the Massachusett Tribe. The tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts have taken their name. We would like to pay our respect to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusett Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historical Massachusett Tribe territories to this day.



Resources

<https://land.codeforanchorage.org/> - Text Bot for identifying Native Land

<https://native-land.ca> - Map of Native Territories

<http://massachusetttribe.org> - Website of the Massachusett Tribe

<https://www.mcnaa.org/land-acknowledgement> Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/indian-affairs> Commission on Indian Affairs

<https://upstanderproject.org> Organization focused on land acknowledgement, cultural appropriation, and teaching of indigenous history in public schools.

<https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/> Native Governance Center land acknowledgement guide



Understanding Resources

- Online resources often use inconsistent and unverified data. They are a starting point for learning, not a definitive answer.
- Land affiliations and historical tributes between and among Indigenous groups are overlapping and complex. They do not conform to Colonial attitudes about land ownership.
- Colonial sources often rely on written records that bias toward Colonial perspectives. These often omit or obscure Indigenous history and perspectives, which also include oral narratives.
- For a more complete understanding of land acknowledgement and regional history and culture, it is important to contact Tribes and Indigenous scholars directly for information and guidance.



HWRSD Land Acknowledgement

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District would like to acknowledge the Massachusett Tribe. The tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts have taken their name.

We would like to pay our respect to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusett Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historical Massachusett Tribe territories to this day.