

Proclamation

Be it Proclaimed:

Whereas: The Town of Stoughton **recognizes that the Indigenous people of our area** were primarily members of the Massachusetts tribe, specifically the Neponset and later the Ponkapoag group within the Ponkapoag Plantation; and

Whereas: During our 2024 Annual Town Meeting, we voted to approve the **name change** of the holiday “Christopher Columbus Day” to “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” in the Town of Stoughton (Vote of approval Article 54); and

Whereas: The Town of Stoughton has celebrated the Indigenous by hosting events and continuously acknowledging our historical connection and remembrance; and

Whereas: Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebrates and honors the Indigenous peoples of the Americans and commemorates their shared history and culture; and

Whereas: It began as a counter-celebration to honor indigenous peoples in the Americas who were nearly exterminated in the post-contact European conquest; and

Whereas: Indigenous Peoples’ Day was initiated in 1989 in South Dakota, where the Governor backed a resolution to celebrate Native American Day on the second Monday of October; and

Whereas: By celebrating Indigenous Peoples’ Day, we commit to learning about and honoring the diverse Indigenous nations who have stewarded this land for generations; and

Whereas: We should not forget the importance of recognizing our factual history, and the fact is that the Indigenous People should be recognized on this day. They are the original People of this land; and

Now, Therefore, We, Stephen M. Cavey, Debra C. Roberts, Scott D. Carrara, Louis F. Gitto, and Joseph M. Mokrisky, members of the Stoughton Select Board, in recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Day having set forth the examples of Service, Honor, Freedom, and Democracy do hereby present

Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the Town of Stoughton

In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Stoughton to be affixed on this seventh day of October, Two thousand and twenty-five.

FOR THE SELECT BOARD

Stephen M. Cavey, Chair