

Protecting & Preserving Massachusetts' Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscape

This participatory workshop focuses on how to actively protect Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes (CSLs) in recognition of their cultural significance to the land and Tribes of the Northeast. Doug Harris, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office, will lead the process. The workshop builds on the 2018 Let the Landscape Speak presentations, which introduced many townspeople in Warwick and across Massachusetts to CSLs and how to identify them. The 2019 workshops will share images of stone structures and address how to protect and preserve identified sites with formal agreements.

The goal of these workshops is to begin the process of creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between each town's Historic Commission, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, and potentially other tribes. In 2015 the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Mohegan Tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Narragansett Indian Tribe made a multiple property listing submission to the National Register of Historic Places defining what Ceremonial Stone Landscapes are. MOU's activate a collaborative stewardship relationship for the identification and protection of the Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscape, leading to greater knowledge of towns' Indigenous culture and ways to protect sites of significance.

This event is free, ADA accessible, and open to children 12yrs+ and adults. This program is being held as part of the Warwick Historical Society meeting June 19th, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Warwick Town Hall.