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William Buchanan response to comments

OCT 31 2022

Cogswells,

DOI/US/AS-IA/OFA
Washington, DC

Up until Theodore Cogswells death he and his brother Truman Cogswell we're the family Patriarchs making Tribal / Clan / Family decisions and are Father and Uncle to Robin Cogswell, the Author of Cogswell objections.

Theodore passed away approximately 6 years ago, Truman is in a Rest home.

SIT Chairman Russell has a 50 relationship with both, They shared family life and Tribal politics

Theodore and Truman were aware of SIT Petition for Recognition, along with the progress and setbacks the SIT has endured in having our petition accepted for review.

Both brothers had listed as members of the STN then removed themselves from STN roles after the first STN failure at Recognition.

The Cogswell family are True Schaghticoke, At one time, all were on SIT roles,

Many left to follow the Irving Harris faction the STN

Truman and Theodore sent notice to the BIA stating their intentions to be designated as a band of Indians.

They refused to be on either SIT or STN roles and instead operated solely,

Robin Cogswell has sent letters objecting to both SIT and STN Recognition.

We are unaware that she speaks for the Family as a whole as many Cogswells are SIT members.

Under revised BIA Regulations, many of her immediate family are ineligible for SIT membership, having already listed as STN members.

As an Attorney she should know this.

Her comments are inaccurate and without merit.

STN

The STN is a faction started in 1981 by Irving Harris.

Irving lost an election for Chairman of Schaghticoke Indian Tribe and he contested the results with the State CIAC.

The CIAC upheld the election results and at the December 1981 CIAC meeting Irving informed the State Council

that the Tribal membership was divided and He would lead the group he represents,,,,,He started a faction,

In his own words indicating he was unhappy with the loss and would break away to work separately from the Tribe.

I have attached exhibit (A) CIAC Council minutes to this effect.

The Schaghticoke Tribe and this faction worked separately for years.

The larger Schaghticoke Tribe, The SIT maintained the Reservation office, while the Harris faction, calling themselves the STN worked off site in Derby Connecticut some 30 miles away. Out of sight and quietly assuming the SIT identity.

Everything STN moving forward is fraud. A faction, admittedly started by Irving, working independently.

This group, regardless of who leads it today, is a faction, and has attempted to assume the identity of the true Historic Tribe

The BIA reviewed and denied the STN petition Twice. Then amazingly approved the Petition, On the third try.

The STN used Tribal roles from the SIT membership, cherry picking certain families and applying them to their roles, the STN needed true Schaghticoke families,as too many listed on STN roles were not. The STN called this a temporary political situation.

The only difference between the successful submission and the previous rejected petition was the inclusion of SIT members to the STN roles.

The STN submitted a fraudulent document

By using names from the separate SIT roles, without consent or Knowledge of those individuals.

Fraud. Plain and simple.

The BIA/OFA made a grievous mistake in allowing this action without notice to the SIT.

The BIA had already informed the SIT through technical assistance, that they considered the SIT and STN to be two separate Tribes.

Each and every member of the SIT can prove bloodlines going back to first contact.

Every member has supplied a family tree with birth certificates along with an affidavit acknowledging membership of SIT.

The STN cannot and did not.

The STN membership is rife with non Indians. The leader of this group will not prove his ancestry.

We contest his heritage and have proof he himself is non Indian.

The STN have no standing.

State of Connecticut / Town of Kent / Kent School

The State of Connecticut Recognizes the Schaghticoke, but won't recognize any Council from SIT or STN.

The State would like to give the appearance of fairness while restricting our rights.

The State would like to argue SIT is just a faction of the STN, attempting to reapply for Federal Recognition,

Contrary to fact. The State actually created this illusion by allowing the STN faction equal standing to the already existing

State recognized SIT.

The State of Connecticut allowed the formation of a new tribe, The STN. A faction. A tribe that never existed prior to 1981.

By allowing equal standing to a known faction Connecticut has infringed on our tribal and civil rights, restricting all we do.

The SIT has provided the State with minutes from the States own Agency, The CIAC showing Irving Harris started a faction.

He informed the State CIAC that he would break away from the Tribe after losing the election and start a new group led by him.

The State saw a way to dilute Tribal recognition. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal devised a strategy that held tribal progress in a quagmire. The State of Connecticut decided that anyone that claimed to be Schaghticoke was Schaghticoke,

The more claiming to be Chief, the better for the State.

It's a Tribal matter was the States catch phrase. Even with proof. Justice was blind,

To this day, anyone can trespass on our Reservation, cut wood, hunt, build structures, claim to be the new born Chief and we are helpless in defense. Arrested by the State for any action we take to protect what we have left.

The State of Connecticut has been a poor overseer of Schaghticoke.

Right up until the late 70's when a Tribal member died, The State would burn and raze the Structure as a training exercise.

I have attached news articles and pictures of such. Exhibit (B)

God forbid another family member should want to inhabit or repair the home, the last thing the State wanted was more Indians living on the reservation.

Connecticut fears the loss of vacant land taken from the Reservation and illegally sold.

All Contrary to the non-intercourse act.

Connecticut prefers land ownership for others, Like the Kent School and Connecticut light and power over the true owners of this land, even more, we can't take any legal action in court because we have no standing. The State recognizes no Council leadership. The State recognizes Schaghticoke people but won't recognize their voice.

The State Court won't even acknowledge our standing to represent expired land leases

It's a strangle hold

History has shown, beyond any legitimate doubt that Connecticut has had poor Tribal oversight.

there is proof of money spent and or squandered in the name of Schaghticoke, money that has been given to others claiming to be Schaghticoke, over those currently residing on reservation.

The States recent objections to our Federal Recognition show a pattern of injustice and obstruction.

How can the State say you are a Tribe recognized at the State level but if Federal Recognition has Tribal benefit you are not.

Either you are a Tribe or you are not. The State is speaking double talk.

All true Schaghticoke are related,

There may be only 250 true blood left.

Some family lines died off, some just gave up out of lost hope, moved away forgetting their heritage.

Its easy to do when your family home is burned and your land is illegally sold off.

Some joined another Tribe, voluntarily left to move on with another. That was their choice.

We are the Historic Schaghticoke Indian Tribe.

You can't say we are not a whole, we are true blood Schaghticoke representing the spectrum of traditional

Schaghticoke families.

We are the leaders of the same Schaghticoke Indians from past generations,

Why else would the STN use our genealogy.

The State fears Schaghticoke may continue on as a self governing Tribe, and may lose a \$600,000,000 mortgage lawsuit

The Town fears they may have to return some vacant land taken years ago

And has taken the NIMBY attitude. Its fine for our neighbor the Kent school, a wealthy tax exempt private school

for the privileged to expand its campus..... but any Tribal Reservation expansion is rejected....

It dosen't take a private school education to see the racism there.

They both fear Recognition will allow us to pursue and settle expired land leases

The Kent School fears loss of vacant land and the prospect they could no longer dump sewage along the banks of the

Housatonic River

Hard Truths they would rather hide.

How we can pre date the Colony of Connecticut

Live on the same lands as first contact

Have 250 yrs of history recorded by white men

And not be a Tribe

Schaghticoke has been a Tribe on its Kent reservation pre dating Connecticut, Same blood lines same family names

We are the historic Tribe,

We are victims of a faction bent on stealing our identity perpetuated by our own overseers.

The State of Connecticut.

With Respect and great Hope that we are judged on the merit of our history

William Buchanan

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Washingt, DC

LEGISLATION:

Roger gave the Council an update of the current legislation and submitted to the Commissioner of DEP.

Mikki added that the bill was accepted by the Commissioner of DEP as drafted by the CIAC. Mikki also suggested that the Council report require some written background material in preparation for the legislature.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Irving Harris, former Chairman of CIAC and member of the Schaghticoke tribe, approached the Council to inform them that the recent controversy at Schaghticoke has resulted in a permanent division of the tribal membership. Mr. Harris also informed the Council that the group that he represents will be formally petitioning for recognition in the near future. Mr. Harris was not clear about the nature or time of this petition.

Roger motioned that the meeting be closed.

Mrs. LeGault seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 12:40 P.M.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING - JANUARY 6, 1981

PRESENT: Butch Lydem (Schaghticoke), Stilson Sands (Mohegan), Robert Nicola, Kenny Piper (Golden Hill), Richard Hayward (Mashantucket), Don Levenson, Trudie Lamb (Schaghticoke Alternate), Lynn Cicero (Mohegan Alternate)

ABSENT: Rev. T. Meehan; Helen LeGault (Eastern Pequot)

GUESTS: Mary Rawlins (OPM), Martha Roberge (Connecticut Legal Services), Alan Alexander, Gabe Sinches, Joseph Gordon, Douglas Dopp (Dept. of Education)

Meeting called to order at 10:15. Stilson Sands read the opening invocation. The December minutes were read and accepted.

First on the agenda were speakers from the State Department of Education. They informed CIAC members of the development of programs and services for minority children. They also provided information of interest to Native Americans: of services available and what services should be delivered. Douglas Dopp is the federal liaison representative for Commissioner of Education regarding federal programs. He presented listing of programs funded by federal government available to Indians.

Old Business:

- A. Eastern Pequot - letter from Larry Sebastian for reconsideration of case. CIAC sent letter requesting further information as to what reconsideration was based on.
- B. Legislation - tribes have been asked to develop narrative to accompany DEP's new bill packet which must be ready by or before January 15th.

Marty Roberge was introduced from Connecticut Legal Services as she will be involved in working on Connecticut Indians' unmet legal needs. Important for tribes and CIAC to prioritize needs. Determined that CIAC members would meet the following week with Marty to discuss legislation.

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