



## ABENAKI NATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

262 Lancaster Road Whitefield NH 03598

603-837-3381

March 21, 2019

Pamela Laflamme  
Community Development Director  
City of Berlin  
164 Main Street  
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Ms. Laflamme

As we know, Mt Jasper and the area surrounding it is culturally very sensitive. It has been a destination point for over 12,000 years. It is reasonable to conclude that there are many undiscovered artifacts of great antiquity, remains, and seen and unseen energies still remaining in and around its immediate area. This entire area for our people, the Abenaki, is considered sacred.

Michael Eastman, a member of our Tribal Council, is responsible for watching over this sacred area as well as the surrounding geographical area for our people.

This letter is to confirm that Michael has the authority to speak on behalf of the Abenaki Nation of NH for the expressed purpose of securing a letter of Cultural Commitment from the City of Berlin.

Wliwni, Thank You.

On behalf of our people

Rhonda Besaw, Speaker

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3-21-2019 - Meeting with Michael Eastman 10:00AM to 11:30PM. Present were Corinne Cascadden, Superintendent, Bryan Lamirande, Business Manager and Michael Eastman, Representative of the Abenaki Nation.

Mt. Jasper, located behind and abutting Berlin High School, is a sacred ground area because of its historical and cultural identification by the Abenaki Nation of NH. There are artifacts, mines, burial grounds in the entire area, including city property.

In the event of any construction or movement of earth anywhere around Berlin High School, contact must be first made to a member of the Abenaki Nation. The tribe is interested in working collaboratively with the city and schools when any construction is discussed for the perimeter of the area.

Mr. Eastman has requested that the city send him a letter of "Cultural Commitment" stating that the city will contact the Abenaki Nation of NH before excavation occurs. The letter should mention that the cultural commitment will allow a representative of the Nation access to construction meetings when possible. The intent of their involvement is not to interfere with the use of city land but to provide awareness of the cultural components with any subsequent outdoor projects.

Local member contact: Michael Eastman  
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Berlin, NH 03570  
Phone: (603)752-0029  
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Primary Tribe contact: Rhonda Besaw, Speaker  
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