

Our invitation
to the
Passamaquoddy Nation
to use and enjoy
Dickinsons Reach
April 15, 2020

Donald G. Soctomah
Historic Preservation Officer
Passamaquoddy Tribe
Indian Township, Maine

Dear Donald,

We are the current stewards of 425-acres of land surrounding the tide rip at Little Kennebec Bay and adjacent to your nation's lands at Moose Snare Cove in Machiapsort. Maine. We are writing to you with our invitation and encouragement for your community to use and to enjoy our land. This invitation arises from and affirms our respect for your community.

The land we speak of, which we call Dickinsons Reach, was cared for and lived upon for 50 years by our mutual friend, Bill Coperthwaite. You and Bill met on several occasions and you are familiar with how Bill lived and the care he gave to this land.

The rugged beauty of this bay encompasses 4.5 miles of intertidal mud flats teeming with feeding birds, where bald eagles circle overhead; dense maritime spruce-fir forests line the headlands harboring osprey, nesting marlins, heron and blackpoll warblers. There are medicinal plants, the ones we know about include blueberries, wild cranberries, goldthread and ghost pipe. In this relatively undisturbed landscape, Bill Coperthwaite built a unique homestead of round buildings and lived a long life in relationship to this nature. He left a beautiful mark and his life inspired us. Our group co-owned Dickinsons Reach with Bill for the last decade of his life and we subsequently inherited it entirely upon his death.



We are speaking about parcel #2 on this map. It's a place of great natural beauty and cultural importance. The tide rip, through which the 100-acre tidal mill Pond fills and empties, is unique to Washington County and certainly has attracted human beings for thousands of years. Surrounding this land are an additional 1,000 acres that have been protected by the Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the state of Maine.

We recognize that is also the landscape that the Passamaquoddy Nation once fully inhabited and stewarded. It is your home ground. Dickinsons Reach is only a few miles from Picture Rocks and Long Point, and we are your immediate adjacent neighbors to your blueberry barrens at Moose Snare Cove.



In this aerial image, the homestead that can be seen to the south is Bill's original homestead with 3 yurts, boat house and summer kitchen. It is accessed by a 1.5-mile footpath from a parking lot off Route 192 in Machiasport. The northern portion of Dickinsons Reach, directly adjacent to the tide rip, directly abuts Passamaquoddy Nation's Moose Snare Cove land and is a 10-minute walk from your road to this portion of our land.

We invite your use and enjoyment of Dickinsons Reach because we believe your peoples' ties to this land are deeper than our own. We feel your presence on this land and we invite your use and enjoyment of it to help restore your relationship to this place, and also to kindle a positive and healthy relationship with us. We find ourselves to be "owners" of this land but want its use and enjoyment to be shared with you and your community. We fully respect that you will need to determine the value of this invitation to you.

We humbly suggest some potential uses for Tribal activities or sponsored events for you to explore on your terms:

- the northern portion, which has a freshwater well, a yurt, and several good camping areas, would be an excellent location for a culture camp or overnight camping. We invite you to use it this way or any way you like. It is best accessed from Moose Snare Cove.

- the southern portion has Bill's historic yurts and is a great location for people who prefer not to camp or who would appreciate Bill's round buildings. This would be a great place to hold gatherings. It is best accessed by the 1.5-mile footpath from Route 192.
- Both sides of the property are connected by trails and could easily be connected to your Moose Snare Cove. Mill Pond is a terrific place to base canoe trips of any kind.

We want you to come to know, appreciate and use this place. Our intent would be to give you privacy. You do not need to explain why you are using this land. You can access this place anytime you like at any time of the year. We would like to know of day use 24 hours ahead in order to notify the caretaker and others of us who may be there then, and schedule overnight use with one week's notice. We want to know when you would like to be there so we can adjust our use to provide your Tribal activities with undisturbed use.

The essential point of our invitation is for you and your community to know that you are welcome on this land on your terms, and that we would be honored to have a relationship with your community. We don't know how to make this invitation as effective for you as we would like. Our intent is to learn together.

Peter Forbes is your contact: Peter@knollfarm.org 802-595-0711

We hope you will take advantage of this invitation often.

With our respect,



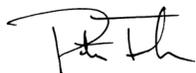
Peter Lamb



Dorn Cox



Julie Henze



Peter Forbes



Dan Neumeyer



Josh and Melanie Wehrwein