STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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3 April, 2012

Mike Stover, PE
Indian Program Manager, EPA - New England, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mail Code OEP06-3
Boston, MA 02109-3912

RE: Mill Cove Brook Archaeological Site
Warwick Sewers Bayside Segment, Warwick, RI

Dear Mr. Stover,

At your request, our office has evaluated the National Register eligibility of the Mill Cove Brook Archaeological Site, located during an archaeological survey conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

In 2007, after reviewing the Phase I machine-assisted trenching within the Bayside Segment, our office opined that "this site, which includes a number of lithic artifacts and soil features, may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The survival of intact features beneath the road surface indicates that this site can potentially provide considerable information about Native American settlement in this area of Warwick." The site appears to have been occupied from around 3,000 to 300 years ago.

Since 2007, additional machine trenching was conducted, expanding the extent of the site, and further demonstrating that a range of features survive beneath the roads, including post molds and probable pit features. Additionally, a probable burial was uncovered, adding to the evidence that this site might approach the Salt Pond Site, in Narragansett, RI, in complexity and importance. The features uncovered by the machine trenching were not excavated, although they, and the artifacts that were uncovered, were recorded. It is our expectation that these features would contain diagnostic lithic and ceramic artifacts, and floral and faunal remains.

At this time, we are defining the boundaries of the Mill Cove Brook Archaeological site as roughly corresponding to the boundaries of the Bayside I Sewer Segment. The area is one of intense historic development, and it is not feasible to establish site boundaries through archaeological survey.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, the Warwick Sewer Authority, and the Narragansett Tribal Historic Office on avoiding adverse effects to this significant site.

Very truly yours,

Edward F. Sanderson
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: John Brown, NTHPO
Doug Harris, NTHPO
Janine Burke, Warwick Sewer Authority

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