

Indigenous People's Day planning meeting 9/7/2021  
Present: Benny, Daniela, Nicole, Raffa (from the public)

IPD 2021: October 11th

Last year's event:

- Did 3 virtual book readings of children's books written and illustrated by indigenous authors
- Donated those and other books to the elementary schools
- Did some social media posts including a reading list, a work or poetry, and links to other resources and ways to get involved

We could hop on to or promote some pre-organized event

- [The Smithsonian has a virtual event](#) lined up
- Could promote any events/rallies that happen to confront the Columbus Day Parade
- Sometime in September Harvard University is having an event to return a peace pipe tomahawk to its people. We're not sure what the date is

What is the goal:

- Education:
  - Could invite native speakers
  - Could invite speakers to the schools? We would have to coordinate with the schools' cultural program coordinators.
  - Could coordinate with NA organizations such as the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, and United American Indians of New England (Raffa has a contact there he can put us in touch with)
    - This will be especially important for connecting with Native leaders

Could do a land acknowledgement

- Want it to function as an agreement for how to be in relationship, and it has to be something that indigenous people want to engage in with us, settlers
- The US Department of Arts and Culture has a guide for territorial acknowledgements
- Will require some research
- Pawtucket was a place name, the people who were probably here were the Penacook. The Penacook moved north after King Phillips War and joined with the Abanaki people. So they continue on, and there is a particular group, the Cowasuk band of the Penacook Abanaki People

We could highlight [Italian Americans for IPD](#)

- In a post
- In Chelmsford they are thinking about going out in town and getting quotes from Italian-Americans who support IPD

Event ideas:

- Book readings
- Native plant event - could do a planting to honor Leonard Bayrd
  - Could talk to the Friends of Lake Quannapowitt
  - Someone would need to fund this, since native plants can be expensive
- Include writing op ed, and social media posts
- Promote [children's books by Native authors](#)
- Get speakers into the schools - not sure this is even possible because of COVID
- No matter what we do it should be done in consultation with Native people and also with African American people (since Columbus was also the first trans-Atlantic slave trader)

Would be good to contact the cultural coordinators for the schools to find out what they may already have in the works for IPD

We could also promote the [National Day of Mourning](#) and tie into that later in November.

Could promote any events/rallies that happen to confront the Columbus Day Parade

If we want to think down the line about advocating to officially change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day in Wakefield, community education is the first step in that. And we might want to also be thinking about building connections with members of the Town Council around this topic.

Next steps:

- Nicole will contact Doug Lyans and Kara to see if they're allowing in-person events/speakers
- Contact Heather from Italian-Americans for Indigenous People's Day - Daniela
- Contact Mahtowin Munro from United American Indians of New England - Benny
- Raffa will send out the contact info he has for Matooine and Heather to the WHRC email address.