

To his Ex<sup>c</sup>y W.<sup>m</sup> Shirley Esq.<sup>r</sup> Capt.<sup>n</sup> Gen.<sup>l</sup> & Commander  
in Chief in & over his Maj.<sup>ty</sup>'s Province of the Mafsa-  
-chusetts Bay in New England \_ The hon.<sup>ble</sup> his Maj.<sup>ty</sup>'s Council  
& House of Repres.<sup>ves</sup> in Gen.<sup>l</sup> Court asembled Octo.<sup>r</sup> 26. 1748

The Petition of We the Subscribers in behalf of the  
English & Indian Inhabitants of the town of Stockbridge  
humbly sheweth,

That the Select men of said Town in the Month of  
March last ifsued their Warrant for a Town Meeting  
to chuse Town Officers, the Constable of the Town being  
absent the Select Men (being ignorant of the Law) ordered  
one of themselves to warn the Meeting, upon which the  
Inhabitants met to chuse Town Officers &c.<sup>a</sup> But being  
informed it was illegal they ifsued another Warrant  
upon which a Meeting was regularly warned by the  
Constable, but when the Inhabitants met, a major  
Part refused to act on any thing (being Indians could not  
be convinced that the first Meeting was illegal, upon  
which that Meeting drop'd, so that the Town are  
without Officers to this time to their great Damage  
& must so continue unlesf your Ex<sup>c</sup>y & Honours grant Releif.

And your Petitioners in behalf of said Inhabitants  
would further represent that many difficulties arise  
relating to the Indian Lands, & it seems very necefsary  
that the Court should determine who are or fhall be  
Indian Proprietors of said Township, & what Power  
shall be vested in them either as a Community or fingle  
Persons to grant & dispose of Lands to & among them  
selves or to any others, And as we apprehend they  
have not power without the Aid of the Gen.<sup>l</sup> Court  
to lay out any of their Lands, We would humbly move  
that a Committee may be appointed by your Ex<sup>c</sup>y &  
Honours to consider the Circumstances of the said Indians  
& direct what farther Lands shall be laid out

unto

[verso:

unto them, which is very necefsary, they being much  
increased, also to consider of the several Conveyances  
the Indians have made already, & alfo to lay out the  
Remainder of the Lands which belong the English  
Inhabitants agreeable to the Grant of the Court.

May it please your Ex<sup>c</sup>y & Honours we humbly suggest  
that it is of the utmost necefsity that something may  
speedily be done for them, several of whom, viz.<sup>t</sup> the Indians  
challenge one & the same Parcell of Lands, whence Contention  
is likely to arise among them, unlesf prevented by your

Interposition — We therefore most humbly move that for the peaceable & quiet Settlement of the Indian Affairs & Controversies respecting their Lands afores.<sup>d</sup> you would be pleased, either to take the Consideration of their Case under your own wise & judicious Conduct & Determination, or appoint a Com.<sup>te</sup> of some suitable Persons & empower them to do it as aforesaid, or proceed in any other method as in your great Wisdom you shall think fit, And your Pet.<sup>rs</sup> as in duty bound fhall ever pray &c

Boston Octo.<sup>r</sup> 26.<sup>th</sup> Anno Dom: 1748

Ephraim Williams  
John Sergeant  
Sam.<sup>l</sup> Brown  
Tim.<sup>o</sup> Woodbridge  
Joseph Woodbridge  
Josiah Jones

In the House of Repre.<sup>ves</sup> Octo.<sup>r</sup> 31. 1748— Voted that Timothy Dwight, Isaac Little & John Worthington Esq.<sup>rs</sup> with such as shall be joined by the hon.<sup>ble</sup> Board be a Committee to take this Petition under Consideration, and report what they judge proper for this Court to do thereon

Sent up for Concurrence. T. Hutchinson Spk.<sup>r</sup>  
In Council Nov.<sup>r</sup> 1. 1748, Read & Concur'd, & Sam<sup>l</sup> Watts & John Quincy Esq.<sup>rs</sup> are joined in the Affair  
J Willard Sec<sup>ry</sup>

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