



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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25 May, 2022

Kevin DeMers
PE Project Manager
DiPrete Engineering
Via email--kdemers@diprete-eng.com

Re: 175 Post Road Industrial Site
Warwick, RI AP 291; Lots 45 & 74
Project #: 2733-00

Dear Mr. DeMers,

At your request, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff reviewed the archaeological sensitivity of the above-referenced project in January of 2022.

In light of significant disturbance by previous construction, and the absence of known archaeological sites within or near the project area, we concluded that no archaeological survey was warranted prior to the construction of the proposed building and parking lot improvements.

We have recently been contacted by concerned members of the public who have raised the possibility that African American burials might be present within the project area, bringing to our attention that the possibility of burial lots is noted on the quit claim deed for the property.

If the deed does indeed raise this possibility, we recommend that an archaeologist be hired to monitor the ground-disturbing work associated with this project. Unmarked burials are protected from disturbance under RIGL 23-18 et seq., and having an archaeological monitor on site would ensure that if burials were to be encountered, disturbance to them would be minimized. Attached is a copy of the state laws, and a copy of RIHPHC's regulations regarding historic cemeteries.

These comments are provided in accordance with the State Preservation Act and RIGL 23-18 et seq. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Taylor, archaeologist at this office.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Emidy
Interim Executive Director
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Lidia Cruz-Abreu, Warwick Planning, via email