
From: Kendra Bradford
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9:51 AM
To: John Tuxill
Subject: House of Healing name - S'iyehom

Could you make the bellow available to board members during our meeting?

Thanks,

Kendra

Name of the House of Healing Building pending confirmation.

~ **S'iyehom** ~ The House of Healing is situated on the Sehome Hill Arboretum in South Bellingham near Fairhaven College. The history of the area **s'iyehom** was originally named after Clallum sub-chief, si'xwom, who married both his daughter, Julia, and his sister Mary to settler, Edmund Fitzhugh. Fitzhugh had very good relations with his father-in-law at first and named the settlement **s'iyehom**, in honor of the chief after the chief's family moved to a longhouse on the beach nearby to be closer to Julia and Mary. However, that relationship changed after Fitzhugh kidnapped his own children. It has been learned that some of this history is questionable in the sense of shady and murky coincidences by the early settler, Edmund Fitzhugh.

During my discussion with Lummi Language interpreter, Po7chu Wiles aka John Ballew Sr, I mentioned not intending to reference the dark history of Sehome and not using the name. His well-mannered response to me was, "why not mention the dark history?" In further thought, I realize the real history should be shared for the healing to begin for this area.

The House of Healing longhouse is intended to focus primarily on students, education, wellness, and safety. The new name for the longhouse can be a symbol of "being the change" in a good way in order to bring back to the ancestors all good intentions and purpose a home will provide to our community. The longhouse will facilitate a structure and "sense of place" to focus on teaching and learning about the history, culture and living experiences of our local coast Salish tribes in the Lhaq'temish territories.

The facility will become a welcoming place for native and non-native people. The main goal is to support cross-cultural sharing and most importantly, to support native students to be successful learners.

Best regards,

Laural Ballew-Ses yehomia/tsi kuts bat soot | She/Her/Hers

Tribal Liaison

752 Viking Union - WWU

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Situated on the ancestral homelands of the Lhaq'temish, the Lummi people, and the Nuxwsá7aq, the Nooksack tribe



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