

## **The Archeological Project 2018-19**

The Fairfield Museum has received funding from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program to work with a team of professional archeologists to conduct low-impact field analysis of the Pequot Swamp site to locate possible artifacts related to the battle. The archeologists will use metal detectors to survey the area. If any objects are detected, they will carefully dig a small hole to retrieve the object, and put any grass or dirt back immediately, restoring the site to just as it was found. No large-scale excavating will be done. If anything is discovered related to the Pequot Swamp Fight battle, it will be removed for further study. Any objects recovered that are not related to the battle will be given back to the landowner. A typical survey will last about an hour or two.

For this project to be most successful, we are asking landowners in the survey area to give their permission for archeologists to survey their property. The Fairfield Museum is conducting this project with the National Park Service. There is no affiliation with the native Pequot Tribe, and the discovery of any items will not trigger any restrictions. Our goal is to learn more about this fascinating part of our Town's history so that it may be shared with future generations.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Does anyone have to participate in the project?**

- No, it is completely voluntary.

#### **Can private property be encumbered by the National Park Service or the Pequot Tribe?**

- No, private property cannot be taken or encumbered by any means. The Pequot Tribe has no role in this project.

#### **How do you plan on surveying my property?**

- We would like permission to walk your property and survey it with a metal detector.
- If there are any metal items detected, archeologists will dig a small hole to recover the item, and immediately replace any dirt or grass to its original condition.

#### **If I allow anyone to dig on my property will it ruin my yard?**

- No. Any holes dug will be small and will be restored to their original condition.

#### **What if evidence from the battlefield is discovered? What does that mean for me and my property?**

- If items related to the battle are discovered, they will become the property of the National Park Service so that they can be studied further. Any items discovered that are not related to the battle will be returned to the landowner.
- Discovery of battle artifacts will not restrict or limit your rights of private property in the use, development or sale of your property in any way.

#### **What is my liability?**

- The Fairfield Museum will carry \$2 million in liability insurance that will protect you and your property. A certificate of that insurance can be provided to you.