



**UPPER MATTAPONI TRIBE  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UPPER MATTAPONI TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
OFFICE (THPO)**

A Resolution to establish the Upper Mattaponi Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) to assume the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on tribal lands, ensuring the protection and preservation of the Tribe's historic and cultural resources, and to authorize the creation of supporting boards or commissions to oversee its functions.

At a duly called Regular Meeting of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe Council held this 21 day of November, 2024, the following Resolution and Law were adopted.

**WHEREAS**, Article VII, Section 4(a) of the Constitution of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe vests legislative power in the Council, granting it the authority to enact laws and adopt resolutions, including those essential to preserving the Tribe's cultural heritage as a sovereign, federally recognized Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, as a sovereign nation, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe has the inherent right and responsibility to protect its historic, cultural, and ancestral sites, ensuring that preservation efforts are governed by the Tribe's values, customs, and traditions, rather than external authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. § 302702, the Council deems it appropriate for the Upper Mattaponi Tribe to assume the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on tribal lands, to ensure that tribal historic and cultural resources are preserved under tribal jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Council, through the adoption of this Resolution, to establish a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in accordance with 54 U.S.C. § 302701 et seq. (commonly referred to as Section 101(d) of the NHPA), which will assume the functions of the SHPO on Upper Mattaponi tribal lands; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article VII, Section 4(d) of the Upper Mattaponi Constitution, the Council holds the authority to create departments, boards, and commissions within the Executive branch by law, including those necessary to support the work of the

Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), and may establish any such bodies to oversee and guide the THPO in the fulfillment of its responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council temporarily designates Tribal Citizen Desiree Dyer as the Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to administer the Upper Mattaponi Tribe's THPO Program until a permanent THPO is designated by the Council;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe hereby authorizes the establishment of the Upper Mattaponi Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) to assume SHPO functions on tribal lands pursuant to 54 U.S.C. § 302702; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council hereby authorizes the creation of any necessary boards or commissions to support, oversee, and guide the THPO in the fulfillment of its responsibilities, in accordance with the powers vested in the Council by Article VII, Section 4(d) of the Upper Mattaponi Constitution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Tribal Citizen Desiree Dyer is appointed as the Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, authorized to execute and submit all necessary documents, and to conduct any and all business required to implement the purpose and intent of this Resolution until a permanent THPO is designated by the Council; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Council.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was duly voted upon by the Council on the 21 day of November, 2024, at a Regular Meeting with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 2 absent, pursuant to the authority vested in the Council by the Constitution of the Tribe.



*Secretary of the Council or Designee*

SPONSOR: Rob Desirée Dyer

CO-SPONSORS: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCILMEMBERS	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Rob Adams	✓			
Ken Adams	✓			
Wilma Hicks	✓			
Sonny Knighton				✓
Desirée Dyer			✓	
Owen Adams	✓			
Beth Gondos				✓

ASSISTANT CHIEF (Authorized to break tie votes only): \_\_\_\_\_

**DELIVERY OF THE RESOLUTION AND LAW TO THE CHIEF**

Resolution No. 2024-18 was presented to the Chief of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe on the 22nd day of November, 2024, pursuant to Article VII, Section 5(f) of the Constitution of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, and will become effective after signature by the Chief or veto override by the Council.

Wilma Hicks  
Secretary of the Council or Designee

**CHIEF'S ACTIONS:**

- Approved
- Veto – Returned to Council with Explanation

---



---



---



---

On this 22nd day of November, 2024. W. Frank Adams  
Chief

Presented to Chief and Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

**COUNCIL'S ACTIONS:**

Override of the Chief's Veto –

Yes

No

<b>COUNCILMEMBERS</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Rob Adams				
Ken Adams				
Wilma Hicks				
Sonny Knighton				
Desirée Dyer				
Owen Adams				
Beth Gondos				

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was duly voted upon by the Council on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, at a Regular Meeting with a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_\_\_ opposed, \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining, and \_\_\_\_\_ absent, pursuant to the authority vested in the Council by the Constitution of the Upper Mattaponi Tribe.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Council or Designee*

