

June 20, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to introduce \_\_\_\_\_ as a volunteer with the Midden Minders, a citizen-science group formed to monitor and document the erosion of archaeological shell middens on the Maine coast. The program is based at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine, and was established with funding from Maine Sea Grant and the UMaine Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions in cooperation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Your property may host a shell midden. Shell middens are cultural accumulations of mollusk shells with lesser numbers of archaeological artifacts. As a result of rising sea level, virtually all middens are eroding. The Midden Minders seek to collect annual data on rates of erosion and document monthly changes and storm damage at as many midden locations as possible. Midden Minders also look to document eroded cultural material through photography. All information will be stored in a database specifically designed to protect landowner and site privacy. Only the project administrators, the individual Midden Minder, and administrator-approved researchers will be able to access any information about this site. The database is not available to the general public. Any other members of our team will request your permission before visiting the property.

The Midden Minder identified above will not conduct any excavations on your property. Any artifacts that are observed at the midden belong to you. The disposition of these artifacts is your decision. You may keep them, donate them to a recognized repository (ex. the Maine State Museum or the University of Maine) or individual, or allow them to remain at the site.

I am happy to address your questions about this project. Please contact me at 207-581-2056 or by email at [akelley@maine.edu](mailto:akelley@maine.edu).

If you agree to allow \_\_\_\_\_ access to your property, please sign this letter below. It will be notarized with the Midden Minder's signature, and kept on file with the Midden Minders program. Midden Minders will not be authorized to visit your location without completing this step.

Sincerely,



Alice R. Kelley, Ph.D.

Instructor, Earth and Climate Sciences, Assoc. Research Professor, Climate Change Institute.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, give Midden Minder, \_\_\_\_\_, my permission to access my property as part of the project described above.

Address:

Phone number:

Email:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree that I will access this property only to accomplish the goals of the Midden Minders project. I will not conduct any excavations at this location. I understand that any artifacts recovered as part of this project are the property of the landowner.