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Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 8:53 AM
To: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Cc: Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us>
Subject: Oyster River Massacre Marker - Roundtable Discussions ***

Hello Michael,

Your email states the reason for the Roundtable Discussions:

“The Division of Historical Resources had worked with several interested parties over the last year in trying to formulate revised language for the marker but no agreement was reached among the parties.”

I do not know where you heard this but I want to let you know your understanding is not accurate:

The Durham Historic Association sent its research of primary source French records about the Massacre and revised draft text to the NH Division of Historic Resources on March 7, 2023. Since that date, despite following up, the DHA received no response from the NHDHR. Our research in the French records was to learn the ‘other side of the story’ rather than relying solely on the English records about the event. Since March 7, 2023 the DHA was disappointed to receive no response from the NHDHR which made no attempt to engage in any discussion with us about the event or about revised text for the historic marker, sponsored by the DHA in 1965.

Since March 2023 the minutes of the NH Commission of Native American Affairs show no record that the DHA’s research and revised draft text was sent by the NHDHR to the NHCNAA for consideration.

There has been no attempt to negotiate a solution to the undefined issues with the original text of the historic marker during the past year by the NHDHR or the NHCNAA, the only party making any effort is the Durham Historic Association.

The DHA research sent to the NHDHR on March 7, 2023 presumes knowledge of the English records about the Oyster River Massacre; this information was not restated for the benefit of the NHDHR. However, this information should be included on the web page intended to provide information for the public as background for the Roundtable Discussions. I have attached the pages describing the Massacre from the ‘History of the Town of Durham New Hampshire’. Please insert this link near the top of the list as it provides the best overview of the event as it was experienced by local residents.

Janet Mackie