

From: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>

Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:49 PM

Subject: Oyster River Massacre Marker - Roundtable Discussions ***

Good afternoon,

As you know, the Durham Historic District/Heritage Commission (HDC) is hosting three roundtable discussions over the next three months to talk about the Oyster River Massacre Marker and potential revised language for the marker (along with ideas for conducting these kinds of conversations effectively going forward).

The marker was removed from its location on Newmarket Road several years ago by NH Historic Resources and NHDOT, among numerous signs statewide, pending a re-evaluation of the appropriateness of certain existing markers. See the picture of the former sign at the bottom.

We are pleased that you will be joining us. If you have not already, please set these dates aside. **Our first meeting is next week, on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.** I will send out an agenda later this week.

- **Thursday, January 18**
- **Thursday, February 15**
- **Thursday, March 21**

These meetings will be held in Council Chambers in Durham Town Hall from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The Town of Durham has hired Charlotte Bacon and Barbara Will of Montgomery Will Consulting to facilitate the conversation. We may adjourn earlier than 6:00 p.m. or not have all three scheduled meetings if we complete the work earlier. Please note that I generally send these kinds of emails out bcc so that we do not engage in a discussion on line. It is best that participants share their comments at the meetings so that everybody can hear them (especially since these are public meetings)

- Here are the 12 people who will be participating in the roundtable discussion along with 4 of us who will assist.

Facilitating/Assisting

- Larry Brickner-Wood, chair of the HDC, will chair the discussions.

- Charlotte Bacon, of Montgomery Will, will facilitate the discussions.
- Barbara Will, of Montgomery Will, will facilitate the discussions.
- I will assist as needed.

Durham Historic District/Heritage Commission (HDC)

- Jennifer Becker
- Carolyn Singer

Durham Human Rights Commission

- Richard Belshaw
- Janet Perkins-Howland
(Kathy Collins as an alternate)

Durham Historic District Association (DHA)

- Steve Eames
- Janet Mackie
(Nancy Sandberg as an alternate)

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR)

- Amy Dixon, Community Preservation Coordinator
- Nadine Miller, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT)

- Sheila Charles, Cultural Resources Program Specialist/Archaeologist
- Jill Edelman, Cultural Resources Program Manager

New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs

- Anne Jennison, chair

Indigenous New Hampshire Collaborative Collective and Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People

- Denise Pouliot, member of the Cowasuck Band

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. In order to help address the issue, the Durham Historic District/Heritage Commission (HDC/HC) offered to host discussions among the stakeholders and requested

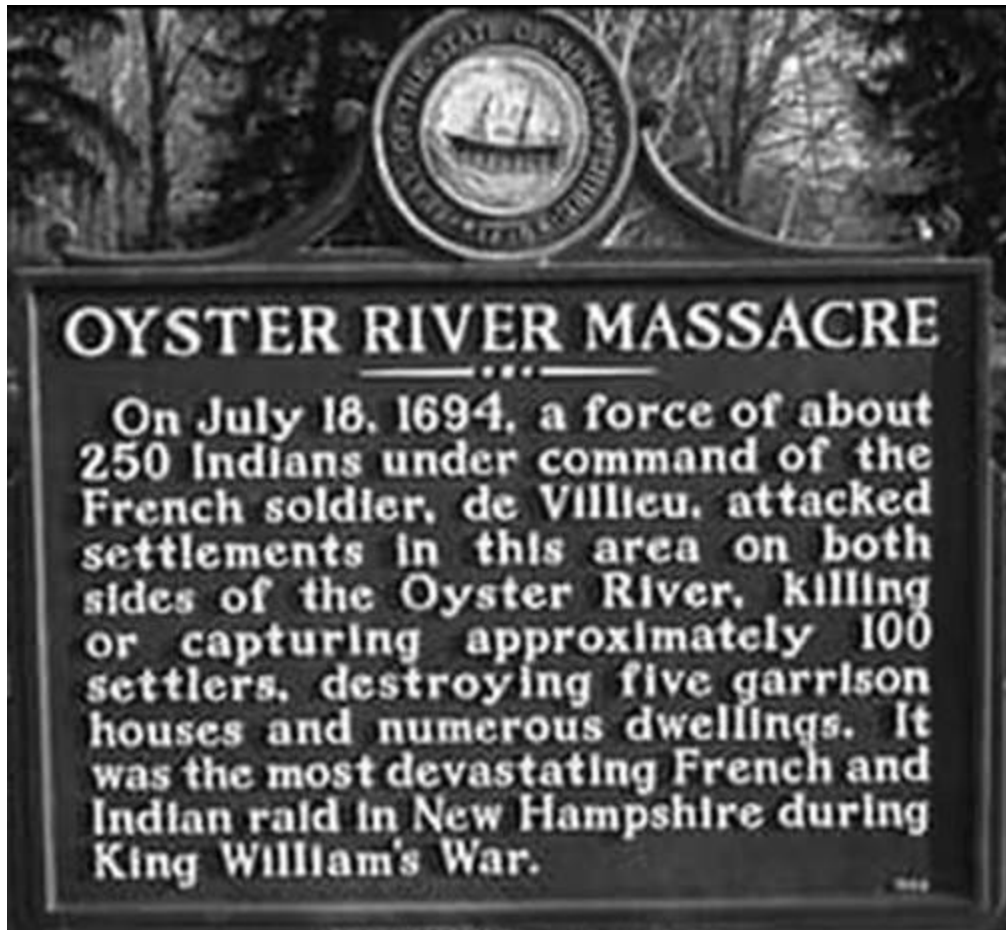
that the Town of Durham hire a consultant to facilitate them. Nadine Miller and Amy Dixon of the NHDHR gave their okay for this process. NHDHR, in coordination with NHDOT, will make the final determination about how to handle the marker but they will likely defer to any consensus reached in these discussions.

These meetings will be open to the public but due to limited time, there will probably not be an opportunity for members of the general public to share comments at the meetings. Any interested person though will be welcome to send a note to me which I will forward to the participants and post on the Town's website.

There will be an option to participate on Zoom. We will send a link out next week. But we would encourage you to come to the meeting if that is possible.

We have a good deal of helpful information about this issue. Please take a look at the documents on our website: https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_historic/oyster-river-raidmassacre-sign. In particular, please look at *Proposals for text* which gives several versions of proposed wording shared earlier.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you again for participating in this important effort.



Michael Behrendt

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