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**Subject:** Oyster River Massacre Marker-additional policy information

Dear All:

The DHR recently received additional guidance by the federal government regarding Indigenous Knowledge and its use in research and decision making at all levels of government. The White House and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) have been working on this issue for a couple of years and ACHP is currently finalizing a draft policy on the topic. I'd like to share the information we received from the ACHP as it codifies the importance of incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into decision making at all levels of government. Here are a few important excerpts:

*Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and other Indigenous Peoples are the original stewards of what is now known as the United States and its various territories and jurisdictions. They have existed as part of their environments for countless generations and have accumulated extensive experiences with, information about, and knowledge of the natural and cultural environment. This knowledge, often referred to as "Indigenous Knowledge," results from a reciprocal relationship with their traditional territories whereby Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and other Indigenous Peoples both shape and are shaped by the places and landscapes that surround them.*

*Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and other Indigenous Peoples frequently rely upon their Indigenous Knowledge to identify and interact with these locations. Sacred sites, historic properties, and properties of religious and cultural importance are often imbued with both tangible and intangible values and resources that are not readily known outside of the community, clan, family, or individual who ascribe significance to them. **Therefore, it is critical that***

*federal agencies, state and local governments, and nongovernmental institutions, including private contractors, respect the value of and actively seek to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge into their historic preservation programs and decision making.*

I am attaching the ACHP draft policy statement and a link to the White House's "Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge" (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/OSTP-CEQ-IK-Guidance.pdf>).

I'm not sure if you feel these documents are relevant enough to share with the marker roundtable participants or place on the Town's website, but I wanted to let the team know that this is a topic of great import, relevancy, and timeliness to the work that we do here at the DHR.

Sincerely,  
Nadine Miller

