

Good afternoon,

The Durham Historic District/Heritage Commission is hosting three roundtable discussions in early 2024 to talk about the Oyster River Massacre Marker and potential revised language for the marker. The marker was removed from its location on Newmarket Road several years ago by NH Historic Resources and NHDOT, along with numerous other signs statewide, pending a re-evaluation of the appropriateness of certain existing markers. See the picture of the former sign below. We are holding discussions on these dates. Please set these aside if you will be joining us.

- **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 a conversation about the sign, potential new language for the sign, and how the community might address broader related issues more effectively.

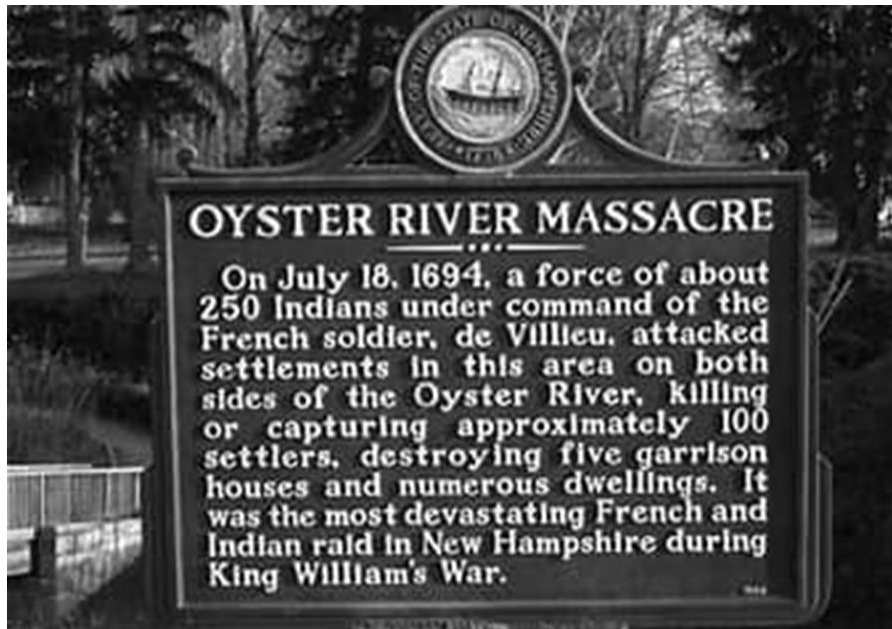
The Historic District/Heritage Commission would like to invite the following organizations/entities to participate in the discussions:

1. *Durham Historic District/Heritage Commission.* Larry Brickner-Wood, chair of the commission, will convene the meetings. Commission members Jennifer Becker and Carolyn Singer will participate.
2. *Durham Human Rights Commission.* Commission members Richard Belshaw and Janet Perkins-Howland will participate. Kathy Collins will be an alternate.
3. *Durham Historic Association.* We have invited the DHA to designate two representatives to participate in the discussions.
4. *New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.* Nadine Miller, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Amy Dixon, Community Preservation Coordinator, will participate. The NH State Archaeologist may also join us.
5. *New Hampshire Department of Transportation.* We would welcome representatives from NHDOT though they might defer to the judgment of the Division of Historical Resources.
6. *Native American Community.* One representative from the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook Abenaki People and one representative of the New Hampshire Commission on Native American Affairs. The Cowasuck Band would most likely designate Denise. I had expected that that Anne Jennison would represent the commission but I leave that to Anne and the commission to determine.

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 have given 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.

I will send out more information later to prepare for the roundtable discussions.



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