



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION  
**BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES**

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**Hannah Duston Advisory Committee**  
**October 19, 2020 1:30pm**  
**Virtual Subcommittee**  
**Zoom online meeting**

**Committee Attendees:** Elaine Clow; Andrew Cushing (chair); Barbara Cutter; Christine DeLucia; David A. Dustin; Erica Gish (clerk); Alan Hardy; Dr. Meghan C. L. Howey; Denise K. Pouliot; Paul W. Pouliot; Craig Richardson

**Members of the Public:** Kate Merrill; Katie Phelps

I. Call to Order

- a. Welcome: Andrew Cushing called the meeting to order 1:33 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Andrew read the Right to Know information and public notice information required for conducting virtual meetings.
  - i. Roll Call for committee members commenced 1:35 PM.
  - ii. Committee members introduced themselves, their credentials, and their connection to Hannah Duston and the memorial site.

II. Committee Goals

- a. Overall: The Committee is to create a plan for the Hannah Duston Memorial Site. Committee members came to a consensus to add historical and cultural context to the site rather than take down the statue.
- b. Committee members discussed the site through their various perspectives and communities.
  - i. Duston-Dustin Family Association
    1. Memorials to Hannah Duston were erected in 1874 in Boscawen and 1879 in Haverhill by entities outside of the Association.
      - a. David Dustin and Craig Richardson stated that the memorials reflect a one-sided, colonial narrative and would like that narrative to be expanded to be more inclusive.
  - ii. Indigenous Populations
    1. Paul and Denise Pouliot expressed that there are two attitudes within Indigenous populations concerning these kinds of monuments, and Hannah Duston in particular. The two attitudes are either to remove the monument or to add context to the site. They expressed that the Abenaki are in support of adding context to the site but expect push back from those that view the memorial should be removed. There is confusing information about what occurred and the site offers a teaching opportunity that removal does not offer.
  - iii. Education & Academic Perspective
    1. Elaine Clow expressed that the incident that brought Hannah Duston to New Hampshire was a reflection of the European religious wars taking place in North America at the time. How stories were told at the time had a more fluid interpretation of the truth. She suggested two comprehensive books on the subject.
    2. At this time, many sites across the country are being revisited and reinterpreted. This site provides an opportunity to add to the story being told at the memorial while providing the larger community an opportunity

to evaluate evidence and to come to their own conclusions. There is also potential for K-12 students to engage at the site.

iv. New Hampshire State Parks

1. Looking to expand foot traffic by expanding use of a nearby rail trail.

c. Broadening the Context of the Site

i. Members made suggestions and discussed their visions for adding to the site. Some of those suggestions included having a plan for short-term and long-term goals, creating a new boundary to prevent future vandalism, landscaping, and adding examples of Abenaki village elements.

1. Some obstacles to these suggestions include restrictions mentioned in the original deed of the memorial, the biodegradable materials needed for authentic Abenaki village structures, parking availability and ownership, and allowable activities of the area.

ii. Members also discussed how the memorial was originally funded and a potential marketing opportunity.

III. Public Comments – none.

IV. Adjournment

a. Meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM.