



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
Site Subcommittee
August 11, 2021, 2:00 PM
Hannah Duston Memorial Site
298 US Route 4
Boscawen, NH 03301
Work Session

Committee Attendees: Andrew Cushing (chair); Alan Hardy; Craig Richardson; David A. Dustin; Denise K. Pouliot; Elaine Clow; Erica Gish (clerk); Paul W. Pouliot; Jack Shields; Mike Nawoj

Members of the Public: Jesse Zacrow (DNCR staff); Jenny Whidden; Jeff Forester; John Morton

I. Call to Order

- a. Welcome: Andrew Cushing called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves to the group.

II. Updates

- a. Jack Shields updated the Subcommittee on the latest news on the expansion of the rail trail.
 - i. The Friends of the Rail Trail – Merrimack County is waiting for the Attorney General’s approval of the trail extension purchase. The Friends have privately fundraised the money for the purchase and construction costs of the extension. Their next goal is to raise funds for park amenities such as benches and kiosks.
 - ii. The Scenic Railriders currently control the right-of-way of the rail running through the site. They are amenable to changes on the property, but will retain control of their property through the end of their lease.
- b. Alan Hardy updated the Subcommittee on the latest news of the waste removal from nearby. The Town of Boscawen was awarded an EPA grant for cleanup. The removal must occur after 6:00 PM to allow for normal use during the day.

III. Site Plan

- a. **Landownership** – The Subcommittee discussed the various entities that own the Hannah Duston Memorial Site and the surrounding areas. Those ownerships include the Department of Transportation (DOT), Town of Boscawen, and the Division of Parks and Recreation. Andrew Cushing agreed to reach out to DOT to include that department in the discussion for the site.
- b. **Graffiti** – the company handling the graffiti cleanup should receive the needed materials for the project in September. Cameras were discussed for catching vandals creating the graffiti. However, the last time the game cameras were used on the site proved ineffective.
- c. **Art & Abenaki Memorial** – The Subcommittee discussed various locations for the proposed Abenaki Memorial/response piece.
- d. **Fencing** – in addition to the new fencing that recently went up, more fencing was proposed to prevent people from falling down the steep incline on the island itself. The Subcommittee discussed alternatives to traditional fencing, such as thorny shrubbery to discourage people from getting close to the edge.
- e. **Safety** – The Subcommittee discussed including DOT in future discussions involving the area they own for increased parking and safety. Concern was raised over water safety and

the increased recreational use of the area if boat access was added to the site. The Subcommittee would also like to include Fish & Game in the discussion of creating boat access for kayaks and canoes.

- f. **Signage** – The Subcommittee discussed the various signage styles that could be used on site. The pedestal type was a favorite due to its ADA accessibility as well as relaying a sizable amount of information. Kiosks were also suggested closer to the entrance of the area. Jesse Zacrow cautioned that too much signage could overwhelm the visitor causing them to disengage.
- g. **Landscape** – The Department of Environmental Science (DES) will need to be consulted for removing the vegetation opposite of the current Hannah Duston Memorial Site. Flowers were also suggested to be planted around the Hannah Duston memorial.

IV. Next Meeting

- a. Andrew will arrange a meeting with DOT and suggested the next work session be held with a virtual component.

V. Public Comments – none.

VI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned 3:10pm.

DRAFT