



TOWN OF CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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To: Gary Clayton, Chair, Permanent Memorial Subcommittee (PMS)
From: Alan Bogosian, Chair, Concord Historical Commission (CHC)
Date: April 30, 2024
Re: Archaeology at the permanent memorial site

Thank you for the additional information sent to CHC following our March 28, 2024 meeting. We had expected up to date, dimensioned drawings but perhaps those do not yet exist since the current proposal is still at the conceptual design stage.

The CHC is charged with furthering the preservation, protection and development of the town's historical and archeological assets. It is in that spirit that this memo is written.

We would like to reiterate the Commission's April 18 request for an archaeological assessment of the proposed site – particularly in the areas where the 5 6' granite/glass columns, the semicircular seating area and the 120' granite wall are currently shown.

The proposed location of the seating area and the granite wall may be in relatively undisturbed areas or, in the case of the granite wall, in an area where the jailyard, outbuildings, or enclosures associated with the jail were located. The area proposed for the columns may be on or near the site of the Middlesex Hotel, Dr. Timothy Minot House and County House. According to the 1900 annual report of the 125th Anniversary Permanent Memorial Sub-committee, the hotel was demolished and the site filled w/sand prior to the April 19 celebration. It seems essential for the PMS to investigate these areas before proceeding further.

CHC made initial inquiries to understand what might be needed:

- on site consultation w/archaeologist re: proposals and known conditions to define the Area of Potential Effect (APE) if any – perhaps the area of the wall, columns and seating area;
- determine level of assessment: perhaps a Locational Survey w/shovel test pits, field work;
- obtain permit from MHC/SHPO;
- submit report to MHC/SHPO

Presumably, the Permanent Memorial Subcommittee will be able to use part of the funding already allocated for the permanent memorial to do this essential work. CHC does not have any funds.

Please be assured of the Commission's ongoing commitment to work with the PMS as the current conceptual plan for the permanent memorial and site continues to evolve.