



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: 25 September 2024
Re: Archaeological Assessment of Parcel 1693, the location of a proposed permanent memorial

Thank you for your email of 9/11/2024 supporting the goal of documenting archaeological artifacts that may remain on Parcel 1693. Your 9/11/2024 email also requests justification for an archaeological assessment of the parcel and clarification on such an assessment.

The purpose of the archaeological assessment is precisely to evaluate the potential for intact archaeological resources and to determine whether those resources remain on Parcel 1693.

In the letter and spirit of our charge to preserve, protect and develop Concord's historical and archaeological assets, the CHC recognizes the national significance of the Town-owned parcel 1693 located within a National Register Historic District (9/13/1977). It is rare for local government to own and steward a nationally significant resource. Historical research prepared by Concord's preservation team over decades supports an assessment on Parcel 1693 to evaluate its potential to be a significant archaeological site, near a documented archaeological site of the Contact Period and probably the Late Woodland Period (19-MD-135).

As we learned at the CHC meeting on 9/12/2024, the Massachusetts Culture Resource Information System (MACRIS) form for Parcel 1693 (CON.964) prepared in 1997 contains inaccurate information and raises questions about the history of the site which an archaeological assessment could help answer.

For guidance on the assessment, please refer to the CHC letter of 4/30/2024, where the CHC provided information on what might be needed. (Attached.) Since then, staff and the CHC shared additional guidance, including a description of levels of archaeological assessment. (Attached.)

The PMS obtained 3 quotes from Public Archaeology Lab Inc. (PAL) in response to the CHC's request to begin with Phase IA and Phase IB levels of assessment for the Area of Potential Effect. The following two quotes prepared by PAL would cover the scope of work requested by the CHC:

- Phase 1A: Assessment of Archaeological Sensitivity (full proposal), 5/29/2024, \$1,030
- Phase 1B: Intensive Locational Survey (estimate only) with 30 test pits, 6/26/2024, \$12,235*

At the CHC meeting on 9/12/2024, the Commission recognized that the Permanent Memorial remains in the initial conceptual stages. The design could change and construction considerations have yet to be developed. We communicated that a Phase 1B archaeological assessment may be premature at this point because there may well be changes in the final design and the Area of Potential Impact and asked to be included in the distribution of plans as they develop.

Before beginning the Phase IA assessment, the CHC recommends that the PMS complete a Use of Town Property permit application to help identify coordination steps with Town Department/Division staff. In the meantime, the CHC is working with preservation staff on a packet of information regarding the history of the site to assist the archaeologist and considering potential sources of funding.

* The third quote limited to 10 test pits on a single transect searching only for evidence of the jail would not address the CHC request.