

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Monthly SHPO-FHWA-ACOE-NHDOT Cultural Resources Meeting

DATE OF CONFERENCES: August 3, 2023

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: Zoom Meeting

ATTENDED BY:

NHDOT

Jason Ayotte
Sheila Charles
Jill Edelmann
Dillan Schmidt
Hans Weber

Trent Zanes

NHDHR/NHDNCR

Laura Black
David Trubey

FHWA

Jamie Sikora

NH Rail Trails Coalition

Dave Topham

PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS REVIEWED THIS MONTH:

(minutes on subsequent pages)

Belmont 43352, X-A005(083), RPR 139591

Belmont 43352, X-A005(083), RPR 13959

Participants:

- NHDOT: Jason Ayotte, Dillan Schmidt, Hans Weber, Trent Zanes
- Interested Parties: Dave Topham

The proposed Belmont 43352 intersection improvement project was presented at the August 03, 2023 monthly Cultural Resources Agency Coordination Meeting to discuss the proposed Individual and District area form update efforts for the proposed project.

Dillan Schmidt provided a brief project overview and indicated that the project team was planning to conduct a District Area Form update and indicated that the team would be looking for NHDHR staff to provide comments and guidance for the proposed form update efforts. Laura Black (NHDHR) indicated that the last inventory for most of the project area was in 2002 and an update would be appropriate. Laura Black indicated for the district update that the project team would want to identify the period of significance as well as taking a closer look at the contributing properties from the 2002 inventory to determine if any individual properties need to be updated or if new properties need to be included in the district. Laura Black also indicated for the individual form update efforts that the team should look at the properties that were determined to be not individually eligible and check if the eligibility status had changed since the last update.

One of the project's engineers, Hans Weber then presented the various alternatives that have been considered to date, requesting feedback from NHDHR as to which update efforts would be most appropriate and applicable for each alternative: *(NHDHR feedback/suggestions bulleted [-] below alternative name)*

1. **Southbound Right-Turn Lane:**

- Double check the integrity of the Woodbury Residence

- Consider updating the individual form for the Thomas Residence
- Do not complete a district form update for this alternative.
- 2. **Signalized Intersection:**
 - The closure of Nelson Ct. has potential to be an impact to a historic resource.
- 3. **Single-Lane Roundabout**
 - Update the district inventory form.
 - Update individual inventory forms for the Morse residence, Woodbury residence, Thomas Residence and Anderson residence.
 - The shops and homes along the East-side project corridor should be individually updated. (survey limits for the east-side section should extend from the *Digital Eye* business to the *Storez* Residence
 - The library property should not need an updated individual inventory form however this property should be discussed in the memo.
- 4. **Compact Roundabout**
 - Survey updates should be completed within the proposed slope impact areas.
 - Individual inventory form updates should be completed for the Anderson, Morse, and Woodbury Residences.
- 5. **Realignment**
 - Survey North of adjacent bridge structure for potential update needs due to proposed impacts.
 - The 2002 update indicated that the residence at the corner of Johnson Street retained its integrity, and an individual update should be considered for this property.
 - Impacts to Penstock Park could potentially result in a 4(f) impact.
 - Individual inventory form updates should be completed for the Anderson, Morse, Thomas, and Woodbury Residences as well as the east-side shops and residences from the *Digital Eye* business to the *Storez* Residence
- 6. Notes for the district update: Please consider infrastructure and historic roadway patterns.

Additional General feedback: Coordination and consultation with the Town of Belmont, identified consulting parties should be included within the update efforts. Additionally, information on past and upcoming public meeting efforts should be included within the update.

Archaeology Investigation:

Monadnock Archaeological Consulting completed the requested edits for the Phase IA.IB Archaeological Investigation. The revised report was submitted to NHDOT and forwarded to NHDHR on August 7, 2023.

NHDOT concurs with the investigation strategy and findings that most of the project area sits within a disturbed and altered footprint. Avoidance is recommended for some cultural resource elements in or adjacent to the APE (see aerial photograph and table below). As long as these cultural resources in or adjacent to the APE are avoided, no additional archeological study is recommended.

With regard to the potential to encounter canal crossings, NHDOT is requesting that if intact canal features are encountered by the contract construction team, they will immediately stop

and contact the NHDOT Cultural Resources Program staff (Sheila Charles or Jill Edelman), who may wish to appear on site and ensure the intact canal elements are photographed and documented.

NHDHR concurred with the Archaeological Phase IA.IB findings that most of the project area sits within a disturbed and altered footprint and also agreed with the recommendations.