

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE REPORT

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

DATE OF CONFERENCES: July 9, 2020

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: John O. Morton Building

ATTENDED BY:

NHDOT

Maggie Baldwin

Sheila Charles

Ron Crickard

Marc Laurin

Kathy Corliss

FHWA

Jamie Sikora

NHDHR

Laura Black

David Trubey

GM2

Seth Hill

McFarland Johnson

Jennifer Zorn

PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS REVIEWED THIS MONTH:

(minutes on subsequent pages)

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July 9, 2020 - Due to the Covid 19 Event, this meeting was a scheduled Zoom Meeting

Plaistow-Kingston 10044E, X-A000(378), R&C 10267

Participants: Jennifer Zorn, Marc Laurin, NHDOT

Jennifer Zorn provided a brief overview of the project history. The overall Plaistow-Kingston, 10044 project was 6 miles in length and previously designed, and has been vetted through the NEPA process and Public Hearing process in 2004/2005. Most of the overall project has been constructed, with the exception of Contract E, the project at-hand. Contract E is the widening of NH Route 125 from just north of the Old County Road intersection in Plaistow to just south of Newton Junction Road/hunt Road intersection in Kingston and is 1.8 miles in length. A redesign of this last section has been done due to the decrease in actual projected traffic volumes. This current design calls for a reduction in the project's footprint from the previously proposed 5-lane roadway. The current designs call for a 3-lane roadway where the center lane is a dedicated two-way left turning lane.

Above Ground Resources:

The Elden-Mathews Cottage located at 56 Route 125 project corridor is eligible for the National Register. Impacts to the property are not proposed; however, the adjacent lot to the north is an active stormwater BMP site that is proposed for expansion (currently owned by the NHDOT). Based upon the Effect Table, prepared by Preservation Company, the Elden-Mathews Cottage will not be Affected (confirmed by Laura Black/DHR on June 25, 2020 via email correspondence).

An inspection of the corridor was done by Marc Laurin and Sheila Charles for the presence of stone walls. Thirty walls were found, but only five would qualify for reconstruction (one wall is outside the project limits). The five walls are located on Parcel 288, Parcel 286, Parcel 6, Parcel 52 and within the Newton Junction Historic District (outside of the project limits). Marc will provide a sketch of the location of Parcel 6 and the Newton Junction Road walls to GM2 for the purpose of adding their location to the project plans and addressing

in the project environmental commitments. Maggie Baldwin mentioned that the wall on Parcel 52 is an encroachment into the ROW; that there is a potential need to remove it, should it be impacted by work.

A painted crosswalk will be proposed at the existing signalized intersection of Route 125 and Newton Junction Road/hunt Road. The crosswalk will be outside the Newton Junction Historic District, which is located along Newton Junction Road south of Route 125 outside of the project limits. Additionally, the portion of the project corridor nearest to the Historic District is proposed for re-paving only and will not be widened or reconfigured.

Below Ground Resources:

The status of the archeological work being conducted on Area 6 (Noyes-Stevens and Little River 1 sites) was provided. Both sites have undergone the excavation phase of the Phase IB effort (by IAC) and analysis is currently underway. For both sites, the preliminary conclusion by IAC (pending final lab analysis and report) is that further survey will not be recommended.

Parcel 287 is now a potential addition to the project for a stormwater treatment BMP site. Currently, IAC is conducting a combined Phase 1A/1B investigation of the site. Test pits are planned to begin around July 20th. Results will be provided by IAC to DOT and DHR for determination of potential impacts to any archeological resources.

Schedule:

The schedule was presented as: Complete the Draft NEPA Reevaluation environmental document in September, followed by a 2nd Public Informational Meeting, and hold a public hearing in November of 2020. Final design is likely to begin in 2021 and the construction advertising date is 2023.

Questions/Comments:

David Trubey inquired about the Happy Hollow Cemetery. Jennifer Zorn stated that the cemetery was found not eligible in the recent DOE process. Construction monitoring within 25 feet of the cemetery will be an environmental commitment in the NEPA document.

Sheila Charles asked for continued updates on the IAC Phase 1A/1B efforts to help streamline the efforts. Marc Laurin inquired about the findings for the Effect Memo. Laura Black stated that any potential impact to the stonewall on Parcel 6 (Elden-Mathews Cottage) need to be confirmed and defined, and the results of the archaeology needs to conclude prior to the Effect Memo findings. David Trubey agreed.

Laura Black inquired about the public involvement efforts on the project. Jennifer Zorn detailed the efforts. She stated that one public informational meeting and three working group meetings have been held. Cultural resources have been discussed and consulting parties have been sought. There are no consulting parties to date. In the future, a 2nd public informational meeting is planned for the fall.