

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE REPORT

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

DATE OF CONFERENCES: February 8, 2018

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE: John O. Morton Building

ATTENDED BY:

NHDOT	Russ St. Pierre	Dick Boisvert	NH Division of
Roger Appleton	Lisa Weir	David Trubey	Travel &
Sheila Charles			Tourism
Ron Crickard	NHDHR		Jennifer Codispoti
Jill Edelmann	Laura Black		

PROJECTS/PRESENTATIONS REVIEWED THIS MONTH:

(minutes on subsequent pages)

Rumney 41759, Antrim 41760, Epsom 41761 1

Rumney 41759, Antrim 41760, Epsom 41761

Participants: Russ St. Pierre, Roger Appleton, NHDOT; Jennifer Codispoti, Division of Travel & Tourism

The Department owns three rest areas that are currently closed and will not be reopened: Rumney on NH Route 25, Antrim on NH Route 9, and Epsom on US Route 4. These parcels are being reviewed with the purpose of declaring them surplus so that the Department may dispose of them. Jill provided an overview of the projects, noting that these properties had previously come up for review for surplus lands. At that time it was determined there was a need to consider the historical significance of the rest areas from this period (mid 1960s) as a whole. Jennifer commented that the Shelburne rest area needs to be included as well.

The Bureau of Economic Affairs has received a grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission (a Federal agency) to aid in the redevelopment of the Rumney rest area site. However, because the properties were originally purchased and/or developed in association with Federal Aid highway projects, FHWA will be the lead agency. Russ provided an anticipated timeline for review of the parcels

Laura noted that the statewide rest area and welcome center study completed by AECOM in 2016 focused on travel and tourism needs and included considerable outreach, but did not include consideration of cultural resource issues. She also added that if these facilities are determined to be historic resources, it would be hard to find the study's recommended demolitions comply with the Section 106 process or the State's stewardship requirements.

Dick Boisvert expressed concerns for archaeological sensitivity based on the rest area sites, especially their proximity to water courses. Jill noted that we planned to get the individual inventories completed and will also investigate archaeological sensitivity. She noted that we need to discuss how to look at the rest areas. Funding options for the cultural resource investigations were discussed.

Moving forward, the Bureau will engage consultants to evaluate the historic sensitivity of the facilities as a group, to evaluate the archaeological sensitivity of the facilities individually, and consider alternative uses. Letters will be sent out to the respective communities seeking input on

and identification of resources. It was noted that the Rumney Historical Society has one of the signs that had been at the Rumney Rest Area. It was proposed that the mobilization of the archaeology investigation will begin in the Spring of 2018 with a Phase IA. Phase II, if needed, will wait until decisions are made about surplusings the properties.

Submitted by: Sheila Charles and Jill Edelman, Cultural Resources

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Agency Coordination Meeting

Date February 8, 20187

Please initial next to your name. Guests: Please use reverse side to sign in.

Initial	Name	Agency	Email Address
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