



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



CHRISTOPHER D. CLEMENT, SR.
COMMISSIONER

JEFF BRILLHART, P.E.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

MEETING MINUTES

MEMORIAL BRIDGE PROJECT
PLAQUES / PORTAL MONUMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Date: May 18, 2012
Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Project: Memorial Bridge Replacement Project – 13678F
Portsmouth, NH to Kittery, ME

Subcommittee Members Attending:

Richard Candee, Portsmouth Historical Society, Chair, Subcommittee
Steve Workman, NH Seacoast Greenway
Rose Eppard, Citizen-at-large
Tom Reinauer, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission and Kittery Area MPO
Gail Drobnik, Citizen-at-large
Ken Herrick, USS Albacore
Stephan Smith, Piscataqua Productions
Nancy Carmer, City of Portsmouth
Ronan Donahue, Warner House
Maurice Foster, Retired, US Air Force
Richard Adams, Retired, US Marine Corps
Nate Robinson, Active Duty, US Coast Guard
Richard Brooks, President, Central Veterans Council

NHDOT:

Keith Cota, Chief Project Manager, Bureau of Highway Design
Nickie Hunter, District Construction Engineer, Bureau of Construction
Kevin Nyhan, Senior Environmental Manager, Bureau of Environment
Jillian Edelmann, Cultural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Environment

Design-Build Team

Stephen DelGrosso, Archer Western Contractors
Ted Zoli, HNTB
Lynne Emerson Monroe, Preservation Company

Consultant Team:

Loretta Girard Doughty, HDR

Jennifer Zorn, McFarland Johnson

The meeting started at approximately 1:30 pm at the Discover Portsmouth, Portsmouth, NH.

Jennifer Zorn began the meeting by introducing the subcommittee members including the newly added military members, the NHDOT, and the design-build project team. Ted Zoli then led the meeting and explained the meeting format would consist of a dialogue/discussion between all those in attendance since he felt it would be the most productive style for the matters at hand. Ted then opened up the meeting for any initial questions. (Please note, the same support materials given to the subcommittee members at the March 15 meeting, were also provided again at this meeting. See attachments to March 15 minutes.)

Rose Eppard asked if the “dental work” or “vegetation” could be replicated and therefore, stretching out the pieces to cover more of the width of the bridge. Steve DelGrosso replied, yes, it could be replicated but he needed to speak with Daedalus (the firm conducting the restoration work) first to confirm this matter and discuss the details on the cost. In addition, additional cost would need to be reviewed with the NHDOT.

Rose also inquired about the placement of the eagle. Ted stated that the eagle could be moved down and he preferred that placement as well.

Ted stated he could provide a sketch of what that would look like. Greater dental work, stretched pieces, and eagle lowered. Rose asked that the sketch look more like the restored pieces. Jennifer Zorn requested that any sketches be provided to her and NHDOT near the date of May 30, or shortly after, so the public input could be complete and all relevant information was provided to the agencies for consideration.

Richard Candee inquired about changing the corbel support (because the new bridge has a different angle) and whether those could be re-used elsewhere in the reformulation. Ted stated, yes, they could be angled differently and re-used.

Nancy Carmer inquired as to the type of material the plaques/portal monument were made of and asked if these were already taken apart by Daedalus. Ted replied the material is bronze. Steve DelGrosso confirmed, yes, the pieces are currently apart. (NB: Greater detail was provided in Deborah McDermott’s story about Daedalus and their work on these historic features the next day, May 19, in the *Portsmouth Herald*.)

Ronan Donahue questioned the accuracy of the wording on the portal monument. Ted stated there are locations on the bridge to clarify an inaccuracy, if deemed necessary, in the future by the communities.

Maurice Foster inquired on whether re-memorizing the bridge was an option and he was concerned that it may not be the correct thing to do at this time. Keith Cota explained the bridge is a WWI Memorial by a legislative mandate and re-opening this matter to include other wars would likely be a multi-year process and could be considered in the future, if desired by the communities. Richard Candee also added that he did not believe the new bridge was really geared to accept multiple new plaques of a size similar to the WWI plaques.

Richard Adams believed that the new bridge should not accept the additions of other wars. Ted stated there are opportunities/locations for future programming on this matter, if desired by the communities in the future.

Jennifer Zorn added there is an interest to incorporate the new bridge into long standing ceremonies such as the Memorial Day Burial At Sea ceremony and flower casting. Richard Brooks confirmed this level of interest. It was the consensus of the group that including the bridge into programmatic ceremonies was a desired memorial element for the future.

At one point, a few members inquired whether benches would be part of the belvederes. Ted stated they could be and are easily installed and removed. Keith Cota stated there is no money to maintain the benches and remove them for snow maintenance purposes. Jennifer asked the subcommittee for a consensus on this matter. Based upon all these considerations, the subcommittee determined that benches were not desired.

Richard Candee added that the memorializing should focus on the Waddell Bridge and the use of old and new plaques in Prescott Park or other approved off-bridge location. Lynne Monroe, who worked on the Waddell interpretive panel for HNTB for the former bridge rehabilitation project, passed around a draft of what had been developed. The chairman noted the interpretive panel now needs to be totally redesigned to meet the standards used in other city colorful historical signage and to memorialize the 1923 bridge that is no longer there.

Regarding the placement of the smaller plaques, the subcommittee continued to prefer a park location off the bridge. Jennifer Zorn asked Steve DelGrosso if a “no decision” of the location of the smaller plaques impacted the project schedule. He stated the placement of the portal monument and related plaques was the priority and not the smaller ones. He could install the small plaques any time after the opening of the bridge.

Ted Zoli remarked that they had saved one of the round sheaves (the pulley at the top of each tower) and he believed something of that scale (1200 lbs.) might make a perfect memorial to the Waddell Bridge in conjunction with an interpretive panel.

Richard Candee added he preferred the idea of re-using a sheave from the Waddell bridge, possibly in Prescott Park, along with the small plaques and a redesigned interpretive panel. Nancy Carmer stated that a proper process must be followed including: dialogue with the Prescott Park Trustees, coordination with the City, and that a stewardship fund might be required for future maintenance.

Ted suggested the use of a foam core wheel, in actual size, to show what the sheave would look like at various locations and various depths.

Richard stated he and the Portsmouth Historical Society is willing to work with the city staff and trustees to develop a possible combination of sheave/interpretive panels.

Ted stated that a “documentation string” could be developed in which the interpretive panel gave additional sources of information for interested parties to reference for further information.

Jennifer Zorn requested that a consensus of the group be determined since she needed to provide a summary of the subcommittee’s input to the NHDOT by May 30. The group’s consensus was that the plaques/portal monument combination go back onto the bridge in the same location as the old bridge, (NH side) but with certain possible modifications including, increase dental work, more spacing between the pieces, and lowering the eagle.

Richard Candee suggested that the bridge dedication (as opposed to the summer opening to traffic) could be well after the bridge actually opens and recommended Veteran’s Day, November 11. The subcommittee, including Steve DeGrosso, liked the idea of a delayed opening ceremony and possibly installing one or more of the smaller miscellaneous plaques at that time as part of the ceremony. Richard also requested that one or several of the plaques be loaned to the Discover Portsmouth Center for their 2013 exhibit, *Bridges Across the Piscataqua* and that maybe such plaques could be walked downtown, in procession, to be installed as part of a formal dedication ceremony.

He also suggested that an “on the ground” meeting should occur with the city/town officials at Prescott Park and on the Kittery side to discuss possible locations for the sheave, small plaques, and interpretive panel.

Regarding Richard Candee’s request to have the plaques on loan for the summer 2013 exhibit, Jill Edelmann stated there would be no issue based upon the MOA as long as the standard loan procedures were followed.

Rose requested that any further sketches from AWC/HNTB should show what the portal monument would look like with aesthetic lighting. Jennifer confirmed with the subcommittee that any aesthetic lighting must be paid for 100% by a private entity and the aesthetic lighting subcommittee was still waiting for written guidance from the NHDOT on this matter.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:30pm.

All revisions suggested by the subcommittee members and attendees on the draft version of these meeting minutes have been incorporated. These meeting minutes are considered correct and final. Any further comments should be submitted to Jennifer Zorn at jzorn@mjinc.com.

Submitted By:

Richard Candee, Chair, Plaques/Portal Monument Subcommittee

Jennifer Zorn, Public Outreach Coordinator

