



## Board of Selectmen Town of Montague

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Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-3200 xt. 110  
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February 21, 2013

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington D.C. 20426

RE: Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. P-2485 and  
Turners Falls Project No. P-1889

Information Request: Native American Cultural Landscape District Properties in Turners  
Falls Management Plan

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Montague Board of Selectmen would like you to consider the following information  
request for the Turners Falls integrated licensing process:

### **Cultural Resources Assessment**

#### **Goals and Objectives**

*Section 5.9 (b) (1) Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the  
information to be obtained.*

The goal of this study is to evaluate the project construction, operation, and maintenance  
effects on Native American cultural and historical resources. Objectives in support of  
this goal include (1) identification and documentation of archaeological and historic-era  
properties within the area of potential effect (APE), (2) determination of potential project  
effects on archeological and historic-era properties within the (APE), and (3) evaluation  
of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility (as appropriate and necessary)  
for properties affected by the project.

*Section 5.9 (b) (2) If applicable explain the relevant resource management goals of the  
agencies or Indian tribes within the jurisdiction over the resource to be studied.*

The goals of this study are consistent with those articulated in an agreement signed by the  
Town of Montague, the Narragansett tribe and Friends of Wissatinnewag on May 19,  
2004 as part of a Reconciliation Ceremony. In this agreement the signatories



“commit(ted) to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation, and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of the indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here.” Objectives in support of this goal include (1) identification and documentation of archaeological and historic-era properties within the area of potential effect (APE), (2) determination of potential project effects on archaeological and historic-era properties within the (APE), and (3) evaluation of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility (as appropriate and necessary) for the properties affected by the project.

*Section 5.9 (b) (3) If the requester is not a resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations.*

The licensing of the project is a federal undertaking and a license issued by the Commission will permit activities that may “...cause changes in the character or use of historic and cultural properties, if any such properties exist (36 CFR S 800.16(d). The Commission must, therefore, comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, which requires the head of any federal department or independent agency having authority license an undertaking to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

### **Background and Existing Information**

*Section 5.9(b)(4) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information.*

The area subject to the study includes sites immediately adjacent to the Turners Falls Dam (pre-impoundment era “Great Falls”), the banks of the Connecticut River upstream of the dam to the confluence of the Connecticut and Millers Rivers, including the area of the “Deep Hole”, and the banks of the Connecticut River and Turners Falls power canal downstream of the dam to the confluence of the Deerfield and Connecticut River. This area roughly corresponds to a comprehensive district that the National Park Service (NPS) recently (2008) proposed as a potential expansion of a National Register eligible historic/archaeological district. This expanded district would include the entire Turners Falls Airport property (Ceremonial Hill Site) and extend beyond the boundaries of the airport to encompass traditional cultural places as well as a significant concentration of pre-contact archeological sites on both sides of the Connecticut River in the vicinity of the Turners Falls. The National Park Service states that “although the final boundaries of such a Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District are presently undetermined, they should at a minimum be drawn to include the river, islands, and the river’s edge between the confluence of the Deerfield/Pocumtuck River on the south and the Millers River on the north; the existing Riverside Archaeological District (NR 1975) on the north/west side of the river; and, on the south/east side, East and West Mineral Hill, Wills Hill, portions of the Montague Plain that were traversed by the north to south Indian Trail, the ceremonial hill, the Hanneman Site, and the plateau connecting these sites with the river.”



The area described above is known to include a rich tapestry of Native American history and culture, much of which remains undocumented and unprotected. A recent National Park Service document (Determination that the Turners Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, 2008) describes this area as a "Native American Cultural Landscape" associated with more than 12,000 years of human use and activity centered on the River as a source of sustenance, transportation, commerce, communication and spiritual fulfillment. This area was subject to continuous Native American occupation up until 1676 – the date marking the dominance of Anglo-American settlement in the region and the dispersal of Native American groups (north to Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Canada or west to the Hudson River Valley).

This 12,000 year continuum is demonstrated in the stratification of sites (from Paleoindian to Late Woodland) making up the Riverside Archeological District (National Register 1975), which covers a 674-acre area on the north and west banks of the Connecticut River in the towns of Gill and Greenfield and includes Wissatinnewag, known as the place of the shining or slippery rocks, which is located atop the bluffs in Greenfield; and Indian fishing station, the site is linked to the water's edge by a series of trails. Stratified sites also exist on the opposite river bank in the vicinity of the Turners Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill site. These include the Hanneman Site, a Paleoindian site with later hearth component, several sites on East and West Mineral Hill, and a small Woodland (Algonquin) camp site on Wills Hill, immediately south of the Turners Falls Airport.

Both Native American oral history and Anglo-American literature of the nineteenth century (based in large part on "pioneer" oral tradition) substantiate that the portion of the river above the rapids, particularly the area surrounding Wissatinnewag-Peskeomcut and the area above and below the falls were known as abundant fishing grounds and intertribal gathering places in the Spring when the shad and salmon came upriver to spawn. Hosted by the Pocumtuck, tribes from many parts of New England gathered here. The return of the anadromous fish each year signified to the tribes the cyclic renewal of nature and a connectedness with the earth mother.

The study area also played an important role in the King Philips War. According to the historian Sheldon (1895) the bounty offered by the river, arable fields, berry thickets, and wild forests were the primary reason Peskeompscut was selected by Indian leaders for what appears to have been intended as a permanent settlement in 1675-76. Sheldon writes: "Nowhere else could provisions for the summer and stores for the winter be so easily procured. In May 1676, the Indians who gathered at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut had cultivated and planted the fields and were preparing for the annual fishing harvest. The Narragansett oral tradition and Sheldon's account confirm that the encampment at the falls in 1676 had been established by Canonchet, the Narragansett's chief sachem, as a refuge for the Native American families who had been displaced by conflicts with the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, and Connecticut colonies and their militias. Many Native American families were present in the area and were camped on both sides of the falls on May 19, 1676 when Capt. William Turner and a militia made up mostly of men from Hadley, Northampton, and Springfield settlements launched the



surprise attack known as the Falls Fight/Turners Falls Massacre. Based on the accounts provided by colonist Thomas Reed who escaped captivity at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut/Turners Falls and alerted the Hadley settlement of a great gathering and festivity of Indian tribes, as well as the account of members of the militia who participated in the raid, Sheldon reported:

"Their principal camp was at the head of the rapids on the right bank of the river at Peskeompscut, another was at some distance above it, a third nearly opposite on the left bank, while a fourth was on Smead's Island, a short distance below, and still another at Cheapside guarded the ford of the Pocumtuck (Deerfield) River. Besides these, every fishing place on the Connecticut River as high up as the Ashuelot (River near Hinsdale) had its camp." (Sheldon, 1895)

Recognizing the importance of the cultural and historic events that occurred in the area of the "Great Falls" the Town of Montague signed a historic agreement with the federally recognized Narragansett tribe and Friends of the Wissatinnewag in 2004. In this "Reconciliation Agreement" the Board of Selectmen and tribes "committed to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here."

The so-called "Bury the Hatchet" ceremony and the continuing joint effort between the two tribes and the town to preserve the ceremonial landscape at the Turners Falls Airport is an excellent example of how tribes and the towns can work together to achieve common goals while respecting each others individual objectives.

Beginning in 2009, in tribal dialogues with various divisions of the National Park Service, representatives of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Narragansett Indian tribes and the Town of Montague began exploring a concept of "Preservation Tourism" as it might apply to the Turners Falls/Montague area. As envisioned by the tribes:

"Tourism that has multiple Preservation initiatives at its core may be uniquely suited to sustain a program of economic development based on a variety of preservation grants, scholarly conferences, and the planning of a network of them tour trails and destinations. Themes that examine regional natural resources and interpretive geology; Tribal history and culture; the history of Indian/European interactions; and the region's industrial history would serve as the foundation for a tourism program that informs as well as teaches the values of resource protection. Tourism marketing would be geared toward a local, regional, national, and international clientele. Planning, funding and constructing the necessary conference, media, housing and transportation infrastructure is the broad foundation for this town/tribe venture."



In October, 2009, A Conceptual Plan for the Great Fall Native Cultural Park was drafted following numerous meetings between representatives of the Town of Montague and the tribes. This concept was later endorsed by the Board of Selectmen, Town of Montague, and the tribal elders of the Narragansett and Wampanoag tribes. The primary goals of this plan were: (1) Preservation of Native Cultural sites that are currently listed or eligible for listing on the National Historic Register including the Riverside Archaeological District, the Hanneman Site, the ceremonial stone site and other sites of related importance; (2) Enhancement of the public's understanding and awareness of the area's rich Native American culture, particularly that of the tribes which inhabited Southern New England and this area for more than 12,000 years, through Interpretive Exhibits, Programs and Activities; (3) Stimulation of economic development through a Program of Heritage/Cultural Tourism, which centers on the creative economy and ecotourism.

In 2013, the Town of Montague submitted an application for a Battlefield Mapping Grant for the Battle of Turners Falls (Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut). This application, which was endorsed by the Narragansett tribe and the neighboring towns of Gill, Greenfield and Deerfield, is a pre-inventory project designed to identify the likely locations of the King Philip's war (1675-1676), Turners Falls Battlefield and associated sites. If funded this plan of work is expected to address some of the gaps in historical data for the study area, but is also expected to generate a scope of additional research and study that needs to be done. The work currently being proposed does not duplicate these efforts but instead expands upon them.

### **Project Nexus**

Section 5.9(b)(5) – Explain any nexus between the project operations and effect (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resources to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements.

Project-related activities, especially ground-disturbing activities, related to construction, operation, maintenance, could adversely affect archaeological and historic properties through disturbance and direct loss. The survey would provide information on historic and archeological sites located within the APE and the subsequent report would provide information on which sites are potentially eligible for NRHP and any potential effects of the project on these sites. If there would be an adverse effect on Historic Properties, an applicant –prepared Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP), developed in consultation with the Commission, the SHPO, the town, the tribes and other interested parties, would likely be necessary to avoid or mitigate effects.

The study should include an investigation of project-related activities that might limit public accessibility to and use of sites located within the APE that are being considered for historic/cultural interpretive activities and educational exhibits consistent with the aforementioned Concept Plan of a Native American Cultural Park. Areas of particular concern include: (1) Sites within the APE located below the dam on the Montague side of the river which have been considered as a possible site for a Native American Cultural River Park commemorating the Turners Falls Massacre and possibly suitable for the



internment of Native American remains under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Program. (2) Sites within the APE located south of the dam along the River and Canal, including the Cabot Woods area and Smead's Island, which may have been Native American encampment areas during the King Philip's War (1695-1696); and (3) Sites within the APE located on the Montague side of the river, above the dam, including the "Deep Hole" area, where great importance is attached to water in Native American healing and other sacred practices. Other physical connections including possible trails connecting the abundant fishing grounds at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut/Turners Falls with the nearby ceremonial hills also need to be explored in the study.

### **Proposed Methodology**

Section 5.7 (b) (6) – Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate field season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community, and considers relevant tribal values and knowledge.

The generally accepted practice is to conduct a literature review, conduct targeted interviews of knowledgeable Native American historic/cultural experts and perform field reconnaissance. *If the town fails to secure a battlefield grant*, this will include an examination of documentary records and archaeological collections, the collection of tribal and Yankee oral histories, and terrain analysis of suspected battlefield and its associated sites (militia encampments, and the large Indian settlement at Peskeompscut-Wissatinnewag that included several spatially distinct related campsites), and the avenues of English approach and withdrawal during the Turners Falls Massacre battle. *If the town is successful in securing a Battlefield Grant to implement a pre-inventory project identifying the likely locations of the King Philip War Turners Falls Battlefield and associated site*, the study will address research needs as identified in the research design to be implemented in conjunction with that grant. These would include the confirmation of site locations and field research within the boundaries established in the pre-inventory project.

Prior to conducting the survey and report, the project shall consult with the tribes, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer and any other interested entities on: (a) appropriateness of the APE; (b) methods on how the survey should be conducted; (c) anticipated effects on cultural resources; and (d) what properties are and are not considered eligible for the National Register. A preliminary report identifying any discovered sites should be completed after the initial reconnaissance phase. This report should be reviewed by the town of Montague, the tribes, the Massachusetts SPHO and the Commission. Based on consultation regarding the preliminary report, the parties should determine if more intensive field survey is necessary.

The final Cultural Resources Report should include all the information necessary to satisfy the objectives listed here under 5.9 (b) (1). The evaluation of project effects on




cultural resources should include both site-specific effects (i.e. public access, vehicular traffic etc.) and all potential future effects.

### **Level of Effort and Cost**

Section 5.9(b)(7) – Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why any proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.

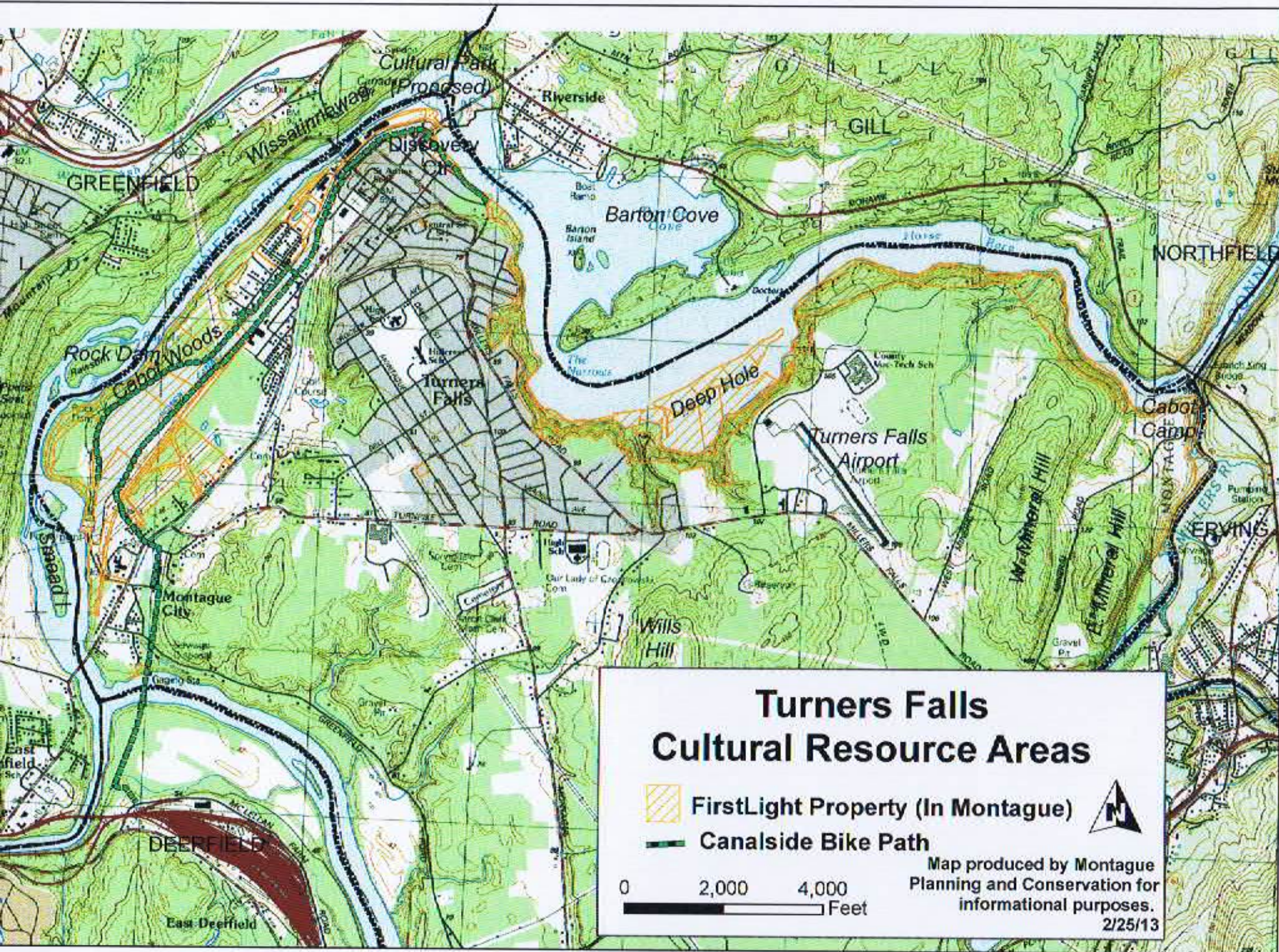
The cost is estimated to be about \$15,000, depending upon the type and intensity of the surveys that will be needed and the level of consulting assistance that will probably be required. Following the completion of the work to be funded under the Battlefield Grant, the appropriate scope of additional work will be defined, and a final budget prepared, in consultation with the tribes, Massachusetts Historic Preservation Officer and the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher Boutwell".

Christopher Boutwell, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen







**A.**

**Turners Falls Sacred  
Ceremonial Hill Site:  
National Register of  
Historic Places –  
Determination of Eligibility**





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places  
National Historic Landmarks Program

202/354-2211 phone  
202/371-2229 fax

Visit or Courier:  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

USPS mailing address:  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mail Stop 2280  
Washington, DC 20240

## National Register of Historic Places/ National Historic Landmarks Program Fax

To: Doug Harris, Deputy THPO

Fax number: 401-491-9458

From: Linor McClelland / ERIKA Seibert

Date: December 11, 2008

Pages to follow: 21

### Comments:

Please see attached determination of eligibility.



**DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION****National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service**

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**Name of Property:** The Turners Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site (Formerly, The Airport Improvement Project - Turners Falls Municipal Airport)

**Location:** Franklin County

**State:** Massachusetts

**Request submitted by:** John C. Silva, Manager, Environmental Programs, FAA, New England Division

**Date received:** 05/25/2007

**Additional information received** 11/07/2008

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**Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:**

☐ Eligible

☒ Not Eligible

☐ No Response

☐ Need More Information

**Comments:**

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:

☒ Eligible

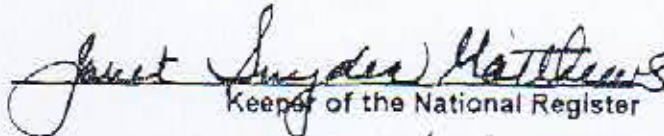
Applicable criteria: A, D

☐ Not Eligible

Comment: See attached comments.

☐ Documentation Insufficient

(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)

  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 12/11/2008



**The United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Determination of Eligibility Comment Sheet**

Property Name:

The Turners Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site  
(Formerly, The Airport Improvement Project-  
Turners Falls Municipal Airport)  
Franklin County, Massachusetts

Secretary of the Interior Findings: Eligible, Criteria A and D

Comments:

**INTRODUCTION**

On May 21, 2007, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) submitted a request for a formal determination of eligibility (DOE) to the National Register of Historic Places, pursuant to federal regulations 36 CFR 63. This request was in response to a disagreement between the FAA and two official consulting parties, the Narragansett Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), over the identification and potential significance of stone features located at Turners Falls Municipal Airport (the Airport). The FAA maintained that the four stone piles are features associated with the remains of a nineteenth-century rock wall construction project; the Tribes maintain that the stone features are components of a traditional cultural place (TCP), known as a "sacred ceremonial hill," and include the four visible stone piles and an extended row of stacked stones; further research may reveal additional features.

In June 2007, Paul Loether, Chief of the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks Programs, made a site visit, accompanied by members of the Narragansett Tribe. In July 2007, the National Register found that the documentation submitted by the FAA was insufficient to determine the eligibility of the stone piles as a TCP or any type of historic or precontact property under any of the National Register Criteria. We provided comments to the FAA that detailed the information that was needed to make a decision and encouraged FAA to work with any interested Tribes and/or parties to provide that information to us.

On April 24, 2008, members of the Narragansett tribe met with Paul Loether and National Register staff in Washington D.C. to discuss the determination of eligibility and show National Register staff an independent film entitled, *Hidden Landscapes*<sup>1</sup>, that records, through the medium of film, an oral history with the tribes about the sacred ceremonial hill and a larger ethnographic and cultural landscape of sacred significance.

<sup>1</sup> *Hidden Landscapes* is now the name of the film series.



The film was later renamed *The Great Falls* and provided additional information relevant to the determination of eligibility.

On the morning of June 24, 2008, at the request of the FAA, the National Register staff had a teleconference with representatives of the Narragansett and the Wampanoag tribes to discuss the requirements for providing the additional documentation the National Register requested in their return comments of July 2007. On the afternoon of June 24, 2008, the Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), John Brown held a separate phone conference with Paul Loether to further discuss the determination of eligibility.

On July 7, 2008, a phone conference was held between the National Register staff and Brona Simon, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to discuss the determination of eligibility. During this conversation, the Massachusetts SHPO verbally verified that they did not believe the stone features were eligible for the National Register as a traditional cultural place.

On July 23, 2008, the Narragansett and Wampanoag tribes, along with filmmaker and anthropologist, Theodore Timreck, and tribal consultant Timothy Fohl, visited Washington D.C. to meet with the National Register staff to discuss the determination of eligibility and provide another showing of the film *Hidden Landscapes* (later renamed *The Great Falls*) to staff.

On August 10, 2008, National Register Historian Linda McClelland discussed via phone the determination of eligibility with Narragansett senior tribal member and Deputy THPO Doug Harris.

On September 23, 2008, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Narragansett and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) submitted an oral history recorded on film, entitled, *The Great Falls*, to the National Register of Historic Places as additional documentation to address the comments in our July 2007 response to the FAA with regard to the determination of eligibility.

On November 7, 2008, Erika Martin Seibert and Linda McClelland of the National Register staff had a teleconference with representatives of the Narragansett and the Wampanoag tribes. During this phone conference the tribes provided the National Register office with additional information to address the comments in our July 2007 response to the FAA with regard to the determination of eligibility.

On November 7, 2008, after review of a National Register preliminary report, the FAA submitted a statement to the National Register that reversed their previous opinion that the property was not eligible. They now concur with our findings that the property is eligible.



On November 11, 2008, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office submitted a written copy of their opinion that explained why they believe the property is not eligible for the National Register.

#### 1) CRITERIA A AND D

The Turners Falls sacred ceremonial hill site at the Turners Falls Airport is a traditional cultural place that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Narragansett, Aquinnah-Wampanoag, and Mashpee-Wampanoag history. The property may also be significant to other tribes of the northeastern United States. Located in the middle Connecticut River region of New England, this site also possesses the potential to yield important information about traditional Native American practices, beliefs, and sacred rituals.

The Turners Falls sacred ceremonial hill site meets the characteristics of a traditional cultural place as defined in the National Register Bulletin, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*. Specifically, the property is associated with several living, traditional groups that existed historically and have continued to practice traditional ways up to the present. These groups share cultural practices, customs, and beliefs rooted in their history. Those practices, customs, and beliefs continue to be practiced today and are important in maintaining the groups' continuing cultural identities. Additionally, these groups transmit and pass down the shared cultural practices, customs, and beliefs that are associated with this place. It is also important to note here that the long period of disuse due to forced abandonment, with use beginning again just recently, does not make the property ineligible for the National Register. The *National Register Bulletin, Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Traditional Cultural Properties*, notes that the fact that a property has little continuous time depth does not make the property ineligible; the property's association with the traditional activity reflected in its contemporary use is what must be considered in determining eligibility. This includes recent revitalization of traditional sacred practices at a place that may have been abandoned in the past for various reasons (Parker and King 1998, p. 18).

The site is a highly significant "prayer hill" containing stone features, and is referred to by the tribes as a "sacred ceremonial hill." The site is central to the cosmology of the combined tribes and the traditions that have marked Native American sacred and ceremonial practices for numerous generations. This site directly links modern-day tribes, most of whom share similar Algonquin-based language and culture, with their ancestral origins and long-standing cultural traditions. The tribes named above are direct descendants of those who traditionally gathered at the site of Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut/Turners Falls for sacred ceremonial purposes, as well as seasonal subsistence activities (fishing, hunting, and farming). In addition the site may have sacred meaning to other tribes of the northeastern United States, including the Western Abenaki, Nipmuck, Wabenaki, and Mahican, who in part are believed to have common ancestry with the tribes of the Pocumtuck Confederacy (including the Pocumtucks, Nonotucks, and Norrotucks) who occupied the middle Connecticut River Valley at the



time of first contact and Anglo-American settlement. Representatives of all of these tribes had gathered at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut and nearby Squaqueag/Northfield at the time of the Turners Falls Massacre/Falls Fight of May 19, 1676. This event signified an important turning point in the conflicts between Indian tribes and Anglo-American settlers in the New World and brought an end to what seems to have been a long period of Native American settlement, farming, and seasonal encampment in the middle Connecticut River Valley.

The dispersal of Indian tribes to other parts of New England, Canada, and New York, was followed by an era of cultural suppression in which Indians not only were denied access to traditional hunting and fishing grounds but also became disconnected from their sacred ceremonial places. As Tribal Chairwoman and past THPO of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, explained: "The traditions and the ceremonies started to subside. We were not allowed to go to these places. There were prohibitions written on the books (laws) to stop us from going to these places. Additionally, if the people would not adopt and accept Christianity and still continued the practices, those practitioners were usually taken away. And if they kept going to the site, even without the leadership or practitioners or the holy people or the spiritual leaders, then the places were destroyed... to eradicate them from current day memory." (interview: *The Great Falls* 2008).

The stone features are shown through oral traditions (both Native and Anglo-American), documentary history, and recent verification activities by the Narragansett, Wampanoag, and affiliated tribes, to be interrelated, constructed features utilized by Native American tribes for ceremonial purposes in conjunction with calendar observations based on the positions of the sun and a cosmology that has assigned sacred meaning to the natural environment, astronomical events, traditional medicinal practices, and spirits, including the all powerful spirit Cautantowwit, who is considered both the source of life and guardian of all beings in the afterlife and has his home in the Southwest (Bragdon, 1996; *The Great Falls* 2008 ). Surviving present-day, federally recognized tribes acknowledge that the grouping of stone features here is the central component of a ceremonial landscape, which is defined by the "viewscape" visible from this observation point and interrelated points to the south and west, including several lakes, the nearby peaks of Kunckwadchu/ Mt. Toby, and Wequamps/Sugarloaf Mts., and the distant peaks of the Burnt Hills on Pocumtuck Mt., 16 miles distant in the town of Heath (D. Harris 2008; *The Great Falls* 2008). Celestial observations made by tribal members, tribal representatives, scientific analysts, and field researchers, in August 2007 revealed that the observation point marked by the stone features was aligned with the setting sun through a notch in the ridgeline of Pocumtuck Mountain/Burnt Hill during the height of the Perseid meteorite shower. The passage of the meteorite shower from northeast to southwest during this astronomical event is of great importance in the cosmology of Eastern tribes (Scope of Work 2008; *The Great Falls* 2008). These observations coincided with the mid-August Celebration, which has been an annual event of the Narragansett tribe for more than three hundred recorded years (332, according to the colonial calendar).



The sacred ceremonial hill at Turners Falls Airport is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because:

- 1) It is one of an undetermined number of traditional cultural places in the middle Connecticut Valley that can be documented through oral history, historical record, archeological data, and ongoing research to be associated with the sacred practices and beliefs of the various Native American tribes that either lived in the middle Connecticut River Valley or that traveled to the area to partake in seasonal activities and traditional rituals. The National Register eligibility of member sites can be evaluated individually as part of a multiple property group or through a district nomination.
- 2) It is an archeological site that contributes to a National Register eligible expansion of the Riverside Archeological District (NR 1975); this expansion encompasses a significant concentration of precontact archeological sites on the south/east side of the Connecticut River in the town of Montague, including the ceremonial hill, the Hanneman Site, East and West Mineral Hill, Wills Hill, and portions of Montague Plain that were traversed by the north to south Indian Trail. In addition to its location on the Connecticut River, a major transportation corridor for Native Americans, this enlarged district also includes the confluence of the Millers River, a major waterway that provided east and west movement across the northern tier of Massachusetts.
- 3) In addition, the ceremonial hill may be one of a group of traditional cultural places forming a rural historic landscape made up of natural features important in cultural beliefs and origin stories and sites related to sacred ceremonial rituals, including but not limited to astronomical observations, gathering of medicinal herbs, and funerary practices. Within the context of other related features, the ceremonial hill has the potential to yield important information to Native American tribes about their origins, relationship to spirits, and traditional sacred practices. Many of the sacred connections to this pauwau (medicine) district may have been severely stressed, and some may have been lost due to cultural suppression during and after King Philip's War of 1675-76 in the mid-seventeenth century.<sup>2</sup> Ongoing research, which includes astronomical observations from the Turners Falls site and a survey of related stone features throughout the region, is contributing to the reaffirmation of traditional practices and sacred precepts and rituals related to this and other sites.

This determination of eligibility is based on a review of the documents provided by the FAA and the consulting tribes, as well as a review of historical accounts; related National Register nominations; oral history by elders, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and tribal spokespersons; recent scholarship in history, anthropology, and archeology; an independent film (*The Great Falls* 2008); and websites relating to Connecticut River history, Native American history and traditions, and the typology of stone features associated with Native American ceremonial practices.

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<sup>2</sup> The Wampanoag chief sachem Metacomb was known to the colonists as King Philip.



## 2) A CONTEXT FOR CEREMONIAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES IN THE CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY

### General

Verified by the archaeological record, the area along the middle Connecticut/Quinneticott River, extending from Ashuelot/Hinsdale, New Hampshire, and Brattleboro, Vermont, south to Northampton and Hadley, Massachusetts, is associated with more than 12,000 years of human use and activity centered on the River as a source of sustenance, transportation, commerce, communication, and spiritual fulfillment. The tribes believe they have used the area from time immemorial. This area can be seen as a large, connected, cultural landscape that includes related historic sites, traditional cultural places, and archeological sites. Stone features, such as the ones evaluated here, may be integral parts of these properties. Historical accounts, Native American oral history, and archeological data support the long-standing value of this region for its abundance of fish, fertile meadows and bottomlands for farming, and forest resources for hunting. These sources also corroborate the Native American reverence for the region's distinctive topography of river, hills, streams, and cataracts, as well as the use of the land and river in the vicinity of Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut/Turners Falls for sacred ceremonial purposes.

Much of the diverse cultural heritage of this area is related to nationally important themes of American precontact history and history as defined by the National Park Service's Thematic Framework, including Peopling Places, Expressing Cultural Values, and Transforming the Environment. A number of previously recognized National Register eligible archeological sites in the area document the continuity of human occupation of the area from the Paleoindian and other eras.

1) Documentation of Paleoindian sites of importance in understanding the lifeways and patterns of the Earliest Americans can be found in The Earliest Americans Theme Study, NHL Program, 2004. (See also: <http://www.nps.gov/history/archeology/EAM/index.htm>). These include the Dedic Site (NR) in South Deerfield and the Hanneman Site (Nassaney 1999) to the west of the sacred ceremonial hill at the Turners Falls Airport.

2) Continuum of Native American occupation and use from the Paleoindian period up until 1676—the date marking the dominance of Anglo-American settlement in the region and the dispersal of Native American groups (north to Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Canada or west to the Hudson River Valley). This continuum is demonstrated in the stratification of sites (from Paleoindian to Late Woodland) making up the Riverside Archeological District (NR 1975), which covers a 674-acre area on the north and west banks of the Connecticut River in the towns of Gill and Greenfield and includes Wissatinnewag and the now-submerged area known as Barton's Cove (Nassaney 1999). Wissatinnewag, known as the place of the shining or slippery rocks, is located atop the bluffs in Greenfield; an Indian fishing station, the site is linked to the water's edge by a series of trails (D. Harris, conference call, October 27, 2008; Dudek et al. 2002).



Stratified sites also exist on the opposite river bank in the vicinity of the ceremonial hill; these include the Hanneman Site, a Paleoindian site with a later hearth component (Nassaney 1999, UMass Archaeological Management Memorandum 2005; MHC letter of January 8, 2007), several sites on East and West Mineral Hill (UMass Management Memorandum 2006), and a small Woodland (Algonquin) camp site on Wills Hill, immediately south of the Turners Falls Airport (P. Thomas 1979).

3) The Pocumtuck Confederacy occupied the lands in the middle Connecticut River Valley in the 1660s. According to Sheldon (1895), the confederation included the following tribes, each acting as an autonomous community: the Pocumtucks who occupied the land in the present-day towns of Deerfield, Montague, and Greenfield; Nonotucks in the vicinity of current day Hadley and Northampton, the Podunks at Windsor (Conn.), the Warranokes (also spelled Woronoco) along the Westfield River, Tunxis at Farmington (Conn.), and the Squaheags at Northfield (Sheldon, p. 48). According to one scholar, the seventeenth century was a period of socio-political instability for the member tribes: "Patterns of alliance sometimes shifted rapidly....Ties between communities were forged, strengthened, weakened and/or ruptured under the pressures, constraints and opportunities that arose from the fur and wampum trade, epidemics, European settlement, and wars (E. Johnson 1999, p. 158)." According to another ethnohistorian, these tribes shared an "underlying cosmology, similar languages, and a long history," this included a common search for connectedness with spirits, called "manitou" and defined as "the impersonal force that permeated the world, observable in anything marvelous, beautiful, or dangerous" (Bragdon 1996).

4) Both Native American oral history and Anglo-American literature of the nineteenth century (based in large part on "pioneer" oral tradition) substantiate that the portion of the river above the rapids, particularly the area surrounding Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut and the area above and below the falls were known as abundant fishing grounds and intertribal gathering places in the Spring when the shad and salmon came upriver to spawn. Hosted by the Pocumtuck, tribes from many parts of New England gathered here at this time to harvest fish and for related ceremonies and celebrations (Nussaney 1999; Bruchau 2006; D. Harris 2008; Scope of Work 2008; *The Great Falls*, 2008). The return of the anadromous fish each year signified to the tribes the cyclic renewal of nature and a connectedness with the earth mother. The area west of the river, also called Pocumtuck, was settled by Anglo-Americans in 1669 and renamed Deerfield; for many years, Indians returned to the area in hopes of reclaiming it.

The Pocumtuck tribe was known for its successful use of the broad meadows at Deerfield, Greenfield and Northfield for cultivating corn, squash, and beans, and for its storage of food in underground granaries many of which were found by settlers in the surrounding landscape (Sheldon 1895, pp. 76-77; Thomas 1976; Bruchac 2006; Bragdon 1996; Melvoin 1989). Sheldon explains the bounty offered by the river, arable fields, berry thickets, and wild forests as the primary reason Peskeompscut was selected by Indian leaders for what appears to have been intended as a permanent settlement in 1675-1676; he wrote "Nowhere else could provisions for the summer and stores for the winter be so easily procured (Sheldon 1895, p. 145)." In May 1676, the Indians who gathered at



Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut had already cultivated and planted the fields and were preparing for the annual fishing harvest.

Much, but by no means all historical scholarship and literature, relates to the importance of this area, known in Anglo-American literature as the "Pioneer Valley," as a contested landscape - one which figured importantly in the early interaction of Native American tribes and Anglo-American traders and became the setting of highly significant events in colonial history. Of particular interest to current day historians and ethnohistorians is the century-long transition of the middle Connecticut River Valley from a region dominated by Native American culture (fishing, hunting, farming, ceremonial activities, and burials) to one organized in the form of small New England towns settled by yeoman farmers and enterprising tradesmen. The Anglo-American settlement of the area is represented by the Old Deerfield Historic District (NHL) and a number of National Register districts. This transition began with the events challenging the unity and power of the Pocumtuck Confederacy and presaging the hostilities of 1675-76 (called King Philip's War or Metacom's War). Conflicts continued intermittently between Anglo-American settlers and displaced Native Americans, who having migrated to New York, Vermont, and Canada, remained hopeful that they would be able to return to the middle Connecticut Valley. Hostilities between Indian tribes and colonists ended with the close of the French and Indian War in 1763. About this time Montague, which had been called "Hunting Hills," was settled as an extension of Sunderland ("Swampfield.")

5) Important events surrounded the interaction of Native American groups and Anglo-American traders and settlers in the period ca. 1600 to 1763. These relate to legal matters (e.g. deeds of land, alliances, etc.) as well as military conflicts. The recording of five deeds for a total of 8000 acres of land, much of it prime agricultural land, in the middle Connecticut Valley (within present-day Deerfield) in the late 1660s and early 1670s marked the beginnings of valley fur-trader John Pynchon's efforts to make Indian land a commodity that could be bought and sold (replacing the declining trade in beaver pelts); such transactions and the attempts to form settlements that followed stemmed from questionable motivations and engendered conflicting understandings about the meaning of land ownership, thereby becoming a source for rising tensions between native groups and colonists (Melvoin 1989, pp. 56-57; Thomas 1976). Anglo-American history chronicling the events indicates the presence of Metacom (a.k.a. King Philip), the chief sachem of the Wampanoag (formerly called the Pokanoket), in the region in the winter of 1675-76 (possibly at Northfield/Squaheag) when tribal leaders are known to have gathered at a council site north of the river in Northfield. At least one interpretation explains his presence here as indicative of his strategy of laying claim to the region as the center of the unified Indian empire (Sheldon 1895, pp. 138-145). The Narragansett oral tradition and Sheldon's account (p. 145) confirm that the encampment at the falls in 1676 had been established by Canonchet, the Narragansett's chief sachem, as a refuge for the Native American families who had been displaced by conflicts with the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, and Connecticut colonies and their militias (Bruchau 2006; Dr. Harris, oral interview, August 10, 2008; *The Great Falls* 2008).

why  
Turner  
Falls?



6) Many Native American families were present in the area and were camped on both sides of the falls on May 19, 1676 when Capt. William Turner and a militia made up mostly of men from the Hadley, Northampton, and Springfield settlements launched the surprise attack known as the Falls Fight/Turners Falls Massacre (Judd 1908; Pressey 1910; Sheldon 1895). Based on the accounts provided by colonist Thomas Reed who escaped from captivity at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut/Turners Falls and alerted the Hadley settlement of a great gathering and festivity of Indian tribes, as well as the accounts of members of the militia who participated in the raid, Sheldon reported:

"Their principal camp [was] at the head of the rapids on the right bank of the river at Peskeompscut, another was at some distance above it, a third nearly opposite on the left bank, while a fourth was on Smead's Island, a short distance below, and still another at Cheapside guarded the ford of the Pocumtuck River. Besides these, every fishing place on the Connecticut as high up as the Ashuelot [River near Hinsdale] had its camp." (Sheldon 1895, p. 151)

7) Two important long-distance Indian trails converged on Montague Plain, one a south to north route that followed the Connecticut River between New Haven and Canada (ultimately leading to Montreal), another running east and west through Shutesbury (past Dry Hill) to the east and Greenfield to the west. The earliest route between Hadley to the south and Northfield to the north in the Colonial period crossed the plain west of Lake Pleasant and appears to have followed the north-south Indian trail passing between East and West Mineral Hills in the vicinity of the sacred ceremonial hill and crossing the Miller River north of East and West Mineral Hills. The first alignment of the east to west King's Highway crossed the plain just south of the two Mineral Hills and the area immediately east of the ceremonial hill became an important crossroads for travelers on horseback, stage, or wagon, and, by 1790, a tavern and several dwellings are said to have existed here (see Survey by Elisha Root 1794, in Pressey 1910).

#### *A Native American Cultural Landscape*

The interest of the Gay Head (Aquinnah) and Mashpee Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes in this area suggests that 1) the sacred meaning of this place extends to many tribes of the northeastern United States, and that 2) the well-documented fishing, hunting, and farming activities that defined the Native American lifeways in this region during the pre- and post-contact periods were accompanied by a strong spiritual attachment to the native landscape and a sacred ceremonial tradition based on astronomical observations.

The proximity of the ceremonial hill to the abundant fishing grounds at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut/Turners Falls is of major importance and suggests that ceremonial activities accompanied the gathering of many tribes at the falls during the spring shad and salmon runs. Sacred ritual surrounded the planting and harvesting of corn, which bore a sacred relationship to Cautantowwit (Bragdon 1996). Oral history also tells us that the familiar gathering place drew special tribal members and clans at other times for rituals associated with healing and other sacred practices. Great importance is attached to water in Native American cosmology, drawing attention to the importance of "Deep Hole," which is at the river's edge just north of the ceremonial hill (Bragdon 1996). Oral



tradition, as well as other evidence, demonstrates that this area was reserved for ceremonial events.

Of particular note is the Narragansett tribe's acknowledgement that the ceremonial hill is significant for its use in making astronomical observations that figure importantly in the tribe's sacred rituals (Scope of Work 2008; *The Great Falls* 2008). In an effort to understand the extent of such ceremonial use, observations by tribal members, tribal representatives, scientific analysts, and field researchers, were made in mid-August 2007 during the time of the Perseid meteorite shower. At that time it was noted that the setting sun as viewed from the sacred hill was perfectly in line with the notch in the ridge line of Pocumtuck Mountain (and Burnt Hill beyond) to the northwest (290 degrees) sixteen miles away on the evening when the Perseid meteorite shower was most visible (D. Harris 2008; *The Great Falls* 2008). It appears such astronomical observations were related to celestial events, the daily and seasonal movement of the sun, and the relationship of the sun to natural features within what the documentation calls the "viewscape" (Scope of Work 2008). As early as 1643, colonial leader Roger Williams, in *Key into the Language of the Indians of New England*, referenced Native American interest in the constellations: "By occasion of their frequent lying in the fields and woods, they much observe the stars; and their very children can give names to many of them, and observe their motions..." (Reprinted [www.nativestones.com/fell](http://www.nativestones.com/fell)). The ceremonial practices that accompanied such observations involve, for the Narragansett, their connectedness to the spirit Cautantowwit (NR nomination, DOE 2007). Some of the details about these rituals cannot be disclosed. The hearth feature at the Hanneman Site (Paleo-Indian) and a hearth feature (with an associated small mammal burial) east of West Mineral Road (UMass Archeological Management Memorandum 2005, 2006) may also be associated with ceremonial practices that were carried out at some time during the area's long history of human use and occupation.

The ceremonial use of this area is indicated by the National Register documentation given to the National Park Service as part of the DOE of 2007 which notes that the absence of Native American lithic chipping debris and projectiles around the stone pile features supports the interpretation of the site as ceremonial, "in that they occupied a sacred space where the discard of refuse (such as lithic chipping debris and projectile points) would have been considered inappropriate." This pattern of use can be seen in the archeological record of sacred spaces at some traditional cultural sites across the country, where domestic sites were located on one side of a geographic feature such as a mountain, lake, river, or butte, and ceremonial sites that lacked artifacts were found on another side (see, for instance, Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain, NR and NHL draft documentation on file 2003).

Additionally, the high number of burials and burial sites in the Turners Falls area is one important element among others that is suggestive of a ceremonial and/or sacred relationship. Previous DOE documentation (the NR nomination that is part of the DOE of 2007) notes that the spirit Cautantowwit, which is related to the ceremonial hill site, holds dominion over creation and death. The discovery of inhumations during agricultural and development activities in the historic record in the vicinity of



Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut/Turners Falls was not only noted by European American settlers, but recorded to such a degree that local historians in the nineteenth century wrote authoritatively about distinct modes of burials in the area. The modes identified included extended and flexed burial patterns, as well as one highly distinctive circular pattern comprised of twelve graves (Nassaney 1999, p. 223; Pressey 1910; Sheldon 1895). Native American cremations have also been found in the area.

The following entry from the catalogue for Memorial Hall museum at Deerfield conveys nineteenth century ideas about the significance of the circular or spokes burial found in the village of Gill at Wissatinnewag-Peskeompscut:

"Twelve bodies buried with their feet resting in a circle about five feet in diameter, the heads radiating out like the spokes of a wheel... The abundance of charcoal gave evidence of the presence of fire at the burial... It is a significant fact that among the bones and charcoal were fragments [of implements] broken by fire." (George Sheldon, *Catalog of the Collection of Relics in Memorial Hall*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Deerfield, Mass. Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association 1908, reprinted books.google.com/books, July 28, 2008).

The spokes burial is an important element to modern tribes within the larger cultural landscape. Reported by both George Sheldon (1895, p. 78-79) and Edward Pressey (1910, p. 63), the circular burial was one of the most significant and enigmatic finds of the late nineteenth century. It was found in 1881 on the Gill farm of Timothy M. Stoughton (within the current boundaries of the Riverside Archeological District, see National Register Documentation, 1975). Pressey attached significance to the number twelve and commented that it "being the extremely ancient number connected with sun worship leads one to conjecture a mystical religious significance in the scheme" (Pressey 1910, p. 63).

Furthermore, artifact collecting during the historic era, and collection through modern archeological excavation, have recovered artifacts, both from burials, and in other contexts, that may be ceremonial in nature. These include stone weapons, smooth rattle stones, a carved stone pipe of a hooded figure (Nassaney 1999), Manitou stones (site observation/personal communication, Paul Loether 2008; *The Great Falls* 2008), and a soft pebble with scratch marks and drilled stone beads that are possibly talismanic at the Dedic/Sugarloaf Site (Earliest Americans Theme Study 2004).

Location of the ceremonial hill at an elevation above Montague Plain, which extends southward from the base of the hill, offers a wide panorama to the south and west. Views to the north are hidden from view by the ancient dunes known as East and West Mineral Hills. Montague Plain (also called Millers Plain) is an ancient sandy pine barren left by the receding of post-glacial Lake Hitchcock. The viewscape from the top of the ceremonial hill reveals a number of natural features said to have sacred meaning in tribal cosmology. These features are believed to take on special meaning when they are viewed from the ceremonial hill in relationship to the stone features and astronomical or celestial events. The importance attached to such features is supported by early Anglo-American knowledge of Indian place names and recording of Indian legends.



The sacred meaning of several natural features which prominently appear in the viewscape across Montague Plain from ceremonial hill was referenced in Edward Pressey's *History of Montague* (1910). These include Lake Pleasant and Grassy Lake, southeast of the ceremonial hill, which he noted for the "power of its fascinating beauty (251)"; Kunckwadchu/Mt. Toby, which with cataracts and caves was the legendary home of "Wittum" in Abenaki folklore; and the Wequamps/Sugar Loaf Mts., which was formed in the image of a beaver by "Hobmock," the spirit giant of Abenaki lore. According to Pressey (1910), what is known about sacred features such as Lake Pleasant, Mt. Toby, Mt. Sugarloaf, and the rivers and streams, appears to have come from the legends of the Abenaki (Algonquian-based language). Many of the place names attributed to Native American familiarity with this area of the Connecticut River can be found in recorded deeds; in many cases these names persisted in local usage and were recorded in the local histories written ca. 1900 by George Sheldon, Edward Pressey and Sylvester Judd. The film, *The Great Falls*, draws special attention to the importance of Wequamps in the origin stories of New England tribes and their relationship to the geological events that created glacial Lake Hitchcock (*The Great Falls* 2008).

Although a substantial amount of information is known by anthropologists about subsistence, food storage, fishing, and farming (corn, squash, beans, and tobacco), little is known by anthropologists about the spiritual beliefs and ceremonial practices of the Pocumtuck, their ancestors, intertribal relatives, and other regional tribes. Recorded observations and the collection/interpretation of physical artifacts at the end of the nineteenth century by Anglo-American historians and amateur archeologists corroborate the claims made by Native American tribes that the general area where the stone features are located was central to traditional ceremonial practices of several New England tribes. Such observations include the discovery of a circle on Montague Plain believed to have "ceremonial" purpose and the finding of several Manitou stones within this circle (Pressey 1910). The collections of Historic Deerfield and the Turners Falls library are repositories of some of the artifacts collected along the Connecticut River, on the Montague Plains, and surrounding hills (Sheldon 1908; Nassancy 1999).

### 3) STONE FEATURES AS A PROPERTY TYPE

For at least the past two decades some types of stone features in New England have increasingly been recognized by non-traditional groups, as well as historic preservation professionals, as a highly significant property type related to traditional cultural practices, including ceremonial, sacred, and medicinal practices (*The Great Falls* 2008; see especially the interviews with archeologists: Dr. James Petersen, University of Vermont and Dr. Paul Robinson, State Archaeologist, Rhode Island; Ballard 2000). However, it should be noted that not all historic preservation professionals agree that some stone features are traditional cultural places. Some professionals argue that most, if not all, stone features date to the historic period and are related to historic wall construction (Simon 2008; Massachusetts Department of Cultural Resources, "Stones that Speak: Forgotten Features of the Landscape," *Terra Firma* 5, 2007). In response to those who insist that the region's stone features can be attributed only to farm clearing or land



division by non-Indian settlers. Dr. Ella Sekatau, the tribal ethnohistorian and medicine woman for the Narragansett Tribe, has stated: "Those of us who know our oral traditions and originations know that's not correct....there is evidence, if they look. It is there." (interview: *The Great Falls* 2008).

There are many references to the sacred meaning of stone features and to Native American tribes in the northeastern United States in early Anglo-American literature to support the finding that such stone features can possess traditional and/or sacred significance. Such sources as the following support the association of tribes at first contact with these features and suggest their sacred importance, especially in regards to effigy-making and burial practices.

Ezra Stiles, a Congregationalist minister who served as President of Yale College, spent his early adult years as a missionary among the native tribes of New England, where he began to make detailed observations of the spiritual rituals of tribal members. He drew attention to the presence of effigy or god stones in the New England landscape (*The Great Falls* 2008). In his entry for September 19, 1794 (*The Literary Diary of Ezra Stiles*), Ezra Stiles noted observing on top of West Rock at New Haven: "a carved or wrought stone which I know to be one of the Indian Gods, of which I have found about or above twenty in different places from Boston to Hudson River, and particularly between New Milford on West and Medfield Massachusetts on East." (Reprinted [www.nativestones.com/effigy](http://www.nativestones.com/effigy)).

In *Travels in New England and New York* (1821) Timothy Dwight, a later Yale president, commented on the Indian mode of erecting stone monuments under "extraordinary" circumstances (as compared with routine burials) to mark the consecrated ground where burials had taken place. He notes Monument Mountain in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, Sacrifice Rock on Cape Cod, and another site near New Milford, Connecticut. He also observes the recent desecration of several of these sites. "I ought, in my account of that, to have added, that this mode of erecting monuments was adopted on peculiar occasions [for example, the grave of an Indian sachem]. The common manner of Indian burial had nothing in it of this nature. The remains of the dead, who died at home, were lodged in a common cemetery, belonging to the village, in which they had lived. Sometimes they were laid horizontally, and sometimes they were interred in a sitting posture.... These monuments were plainly erected under the sanctions of Religion: for every Indian felt himself religiously obliged, when he passed by, to cast a stone upon them." (Timothy Dwight, *Travels in New England and New York*, 1821, Vol. 3, p. 408, reprinted [www.nativestones.com/cairns](http://www.nativestones.com/cairns))

Dwight also observed: "They also formed images of stone and paid them religious homage. One of these idols is now in the museum at Hartford. Sacred stones exist still in several places; one particularly, at Middletown, to which every Indian who passes by makes a religious obeisance." (1821, Vol. 1, p. 85, reprinted [www.nativestones.com/effigy](http://www.nativestones.com/effigy)).



E.G. Squier, in *Antiquities of the State of New York* (1851) noted that such a stone effigy of white granite, measuring 31 inches high and 17 wide, had been found in East Hartford 1788 and was displayed at the Yale College museum. Squier observed: "The superstition of the Indians extended to remarkable objects in nature. A tree or stone of singular form seldom failed to command their reverence. A stone, which, from the action of natural causes, has assumed the general form of a man or an animal, is especially an object of regard, and the fancied resemblance is often heightened by artificial means, as by daubs of paint, indicating the eyes, mouth, and other features." (*Antiquities of the State of New York*, Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. 11, 1851, p. 170-2, reprinted [www.nativestones.com/effigy](http://www.nativestones.com/effigy)).

Noah Webster, in a letter of 1788 to Ezra Stiles, commented on Indian burials:

"The Indians seem to have two methods of burying the dead—one was, to deposit one body (or at most but a small number of bodies), in a place, and cover it with stones, thrown together in a careless manner. The pile thus formed would naturally be nearly circular, but those piles that are discovered, are sometimes oval. In the neighborhood of my father's house, and about 7 miles from Hartford, on the public road to Farmington, there is one of these Carnedds [cairns] or heaps of stone. I often passed by it in the early part of my youth, but never measured its circumference or examined its contents. My present opinion is that its circumference is about 25 feet. The inhabitants in the neighborhood report, as a tradition received from the natives, that an Indian was buried there, and that it is the custom for every Indian that passes by, to cast a stone upon the heap. This custom I have never seen practiced; but have no doubt of its existence, as it is confirmed by the general testimony of the first American settlers....The other mode of burying the dead was to deposit a vast number of bodies, or the bones which were taken from the single scattered graves, in a common cemetery, and over them raise vast tumuli or barrows; such as the mount at Muskingham, which is 390 feet in circumference, and 50 feet high. The best of these cemeteries may be found in Mr. Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia*, which will appear the most satisfactory to the reader in his own words."

Thomas Jefferson makes specific reference to stone piles or "barrows," in his *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1743-1846). He says, "...the Barrows, of which many are to be found all over this country. These are of different sizes, some of them constructed of earth, and some of loose stones. That they were repositories of the dead, has been obvious to all: but on what particular occasion constructed, was matter of doubt. Some have thought they covered the bones of those who have fallen in battles fought on the spot of interment. Some ascribed them to the custom, said to prevail among the Indians, of collecting, at certain periods, the bones of all their dead, wheresoever deposited at the time of death" (p. 223); and, "But on whatever occasion they may have been made, they are of considerable notoriety among the Indians: for a party passing, about thirty years ago, through the part of the country where this barrow is, went through the woods directly to it, without any instructions or enquiry, and having staid about it some time, with expressions which were construed to be those of sorrow, they returned to the high road, which they had left about half a dozen miles to pay this visit, and pursued their journey. There is another barrow, much resembling this in the low grounds of the South



branch of Shenandoah, where it is crossed by the road leading from the Rock-fish gap to Staunton. Both of these have, within these dozen years, been cleared of their trees and put under cultivation, are much reduced in their height, and spread in width, by the plough, and will probably disappear in time. There is another on a hill in the Blue ridge of mountains, a few miles North of Wood's gap, which is made up of small stones thrown together. This has been opened and found to contain human bones, as the others do. There are also many others in other parts of the country" (pp. 225, 226).

Noah Webster also noted evidence that the burning of bones was also practiced in Indian burials and he noted the presence of ising glass (a sample of which Stiles had previously shown Webster), formed of pure clay, and or shells and cement hardened by fire, without glazing, which was often found in the meadows of the Connecticut River Valley. These observations are presented in the context of the then-current intellectual dispute about the relationship of North American Indian practices and pre-Columbian European influences. In the third of his letters to Stiles, Webster refuted his earlier opinion that the Muskingham mounds on the Ohio River between West Virginia and Ohio were created by DeSoto. (G. Hubert Smith, "Noah Webster, The Archaeologist," *American Anthropologist* 33, no.4, (Oct.-Dec, 1931), pp. 620-624, reprinted [www.jstor.org/stable/661015?seq=1](http://www.jstor.org/stable/661015?seq=1). Also reprinted [www.nativestones.com/cairns](http://www.nativestones.com/cairns)).

Recently, archeologists, historic preservation professionals, and others have begun to work with tribes to document and record the traditional and/or ceremonial meanings and the importance of such places. For instance, Edwin C. Ballard has been investigating the uses of specific "U" shaped structures since the late 1980s and hypothesizes that these features are viewing platforms. Such structures would have been used to view astronomical events (Ballard 2000; see also *The Great Falls* 2008).

Through this research, tribes and others have identified several types of stone features including, but not limited to: cairns, rock piles, stone rows, and stone row complexes, linking rows, fish weirs, enclosures, stone chambers, standing stones, pedestals, niches, portals, and effigy stones (*The Great Falls* 2008, see also [www.stonestructures.org](http://www.stonestructures.org), Reference Materials). Each of these types of stone features may have been used for multiple purposes temporally and by different tribes. Some of the uses of these features include, but are not limited to: burial markers, for subsistence related activities, as prayers and/or for ceremonial purposes, as celestial markers, and as viewing platforms (D. Harris 2008; [www.stonestructures.org](http://www.stonestructures.org), *The Great Falls* 2008, NR nomination, DOE 2007; Scope of Work 2008). These features are often related to other stone features and other types of markers and sites across a larger cultural landscape (Scope of Work 2008).

#### 4) TURNERS FALLS SACRED CEREMONIAL HILL

The tribes maintain that this property is an example of a prayer hill that includes rock piles and stone row features that are believed to have been used for ceremonial purposes and as viewing stations for celestial events. Rock piles and stone rows often include godstones and/or Manitou stones, several of which are recorded at this site (Loether 2007). They can be large or small. They are often used as ceremonial directional



markers and components of ceremonial calendars (D. Harris 2008; *The Great Falls* 2008; Scope of Work 2008).

However, while the FAA, initially disagreed and the Massachusetts SHPO continues to disagree with the tribes's assertion that this property is a traditional cultural place used as a prayer hill, it should be noted that the use of the stone row and existing piles in conjunction with the annual Perseid meteorite shower (mid-August) is credible and consistent with the practices of the tribes in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada, some of whom referred to their home land as "Dawnland" or the land of the first light. The use of wheels in ceremonial rituals and healing practices is common to a number of North American tribes and has been associated with native cosmologies in which astronomical observations figure prominently (see, for example, the Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain NHL and NR draft documentation on file 2003). Manitou stones are a common marker of Native American practices (Mavor and Dix 1989; *The Great Falls* 2008; D. Harris 2008).

Tribal oral tradition provides further evidence of the connection between sacred ceremonies and places such as the prayer hill and their continuing importance to tribal identity. John B. Brown III, a hereditary medicine man-in-training and THPO of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, has stated, "Remember, these ceremonies were our science. We had a way of delving into the places of other existences, other realities without necessarily intruding upon them. It was more of an attempt to understand our place in the universe and our place in existence. . . . The ceremonies that were performed there would have been performed simultaneously in other places. That area was one simple locus of many loci in which simultaneous ceremonies would have been held." (interview: *The Great Falls* 2008).

Corroborating the Native American claims that the area is associated with traditional ceremonial practices, Edward Pressey in *History of Montague: A Typical Puritan Town* (1910), reported the finding of two sacred ("Manitou") stones at a site on Montague Plain within several hundred feet of the ceremonial hill:

"William Marsh has shown me two Indian sacred symbol stones, figuring seemingly the spread wings of the "thunder bird," the war god, one very rare with eye pierced for standard, the other slightly carved to suggest feathers, both beautiful. These relics were found at different times within the same circle of ground which seems to have been made softer and clearer of stones than the surrounding gravel, . . . in the middle of Montague Plain, at the point where Kunckwadchu [Mt. Toby], the sacred mountain most impressively punctuates a wide horizon of hills when the August sun or the February moon is highest in the heavens. We guess that this was an important ceremonial place" (Pressey 1910).

The stone features are noted by tribes to be the central component of a ceremonial landscape that can be defined by a "viewscope" and relates to locations where other stone features have been confirmed. An ongoing survey has to date located a number of stone features (believed to have sacred meaning) within an apparent circular area having a



radius of 16 miles centered on the ceremonial prayer hill; other identified sites within this pauwau (medicine) district include Dry Hill five miles distant on the eastern border of Montague, a site on a stream six miles distant in Leverett, and standing stones and other stone features atop Burnt Hill sixteen miles distant in the town of Heath (*The Great Falls* 2008). This roughly circular area corresponds to a possible multiple property study area having as its thematic focus traditional land uses and ceremonial practices associated with the region's Native American cultural groups. Within this context, the ceremonial hill with its component stone features at Turners Falls Airport has been determined individually eligible under Criteria A and D.

In addition, the ceremonial hill with its component stone features is considered a contributing property within an expanded National Register eligible historic/archeological district that includes the entire Turners Falls Airport property (including the Area of Potential Effect) and extends beyond the boundaries of the airport to encompass traditional cultural places as well as a significant concentration of precontact archeological sites on both sides of the Connecticut River in the vicinity of Turners Falls. Although the final boundaries of such a Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District are presently undetermined, they should at a minimum be drawn to include the river, islands, and the river's edge between the confluence of the Deerfield/Pocumtuck River on the south and the Millers River on the north; the existing Riverside Archeological District (NR 1975) on the north/west side of the river; and, on the south/east side, East and West Mineral Hill, Wills Hill, portions of Montague Plain that were traversed by the north to south Indian Trail, the ceremonial hill, the Hanneman Site, and the plateau connecting these sites with the river.

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**B.**

**Conceptual Plan for the  
Great Falls Native  
American Cultural Park in  
Turners Falls**



**CONCEPTUAL PLAN**  
**FOR THE**  
**GREAT FALLS NATIVE CULTURAL PARK**

**A DRAFT PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A  
HERITAGE/CULTURAL TOURISM PROGRAM IN THE  
TURNERS FALLS AREA**

**SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
AND  
THE NARRAGANSETT TRIBE AND THE WAMPANOAG TRIBE OF  
GAY HEAD (AQUINNAH)**

**OCTOBER, 2009**

**For review only: Subject to Final Approval by the Board of Selectmen and  
Tribal Elders**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction and Background

- The Reconciliation event – held on May 19, 2004 to commemorate the massacre at Turners Falls established a process by which the Town and the participating Native American tribes agreed to acknowledge the tragic events that had taken place on May 19, 1676 and to begin a process of spiritual healing and reconciliation.
- In the Reconciliation agreement, the Board of Selectmen and tribes “committed to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here.”
- The so-called “bury the hatchet” ceremony and the continuing joint effort between the two tribes and the town to preserve the ceremonial landscape at the Turners Falls airport is an excellent example of how tribes and towns can work together to achieve common goals while respecting each others individual objectives.
- Over the past two years, in tribal dialogues with various divisions of the National Park Service, representatives of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Narragansett Indian Tribe have begun exploring a concept of “Preservation Tourism” as it might apply in the Turners Falls/Montague region. As envisioned by the tribes:

“Tourism that has multiple Preservation initiatives at its core may be uniquely suited to initiate and sustain a program of economic development based on a variety of preservation grants, scholarly conferences, and the planning of a network of theme tour trails and destinations. Themes that examine regional natural resources and interpretive geology; Tribal history and culture; the history of Indian/European interactions; and the region’s industrial history would serve at the foundation for a tourism program that informs as well as teaches the values of resource protection. Tourism marketing would be geared toward a local, regional, national and international clientele. Planning, funding and constructing the necessary conference, media, housing and transportation infrastructure is the broad foundation for this town/tribe economic development venture.”

- In September, 2008, a member of the Montague Board of Selectmen attended the USET Conference in Nashville Tennessee, and participated in a joint panel with tribal representatives, which included a discussion of potential opportunities for preservation tourism in the Turners Falls/Montague region. The participants concluded that the town and tribes share a significant mutual interest in promoting the region’s native culture in a program of heritage and cultural (preservation) tourism.
- In December, 2008, the National Park Service, in its finding that the ceremonial stones site (Turners Falls Airport) is eligible for listing on the National Historic Register, also



concluded that it made sense to incorporate that site into a much larger area encompassing existing National Register and National Register eligible sites in and around Turners Falls (see attached) including the Riverside Archeological District, Wissatinnewag, Hanneman site, Ceremonial Stones Site, as well as other sites located on East and West Mineral Hill and Wills Hill, portions of the Montague Plains and along the banks of the Connecticut River. This larger site, referred to as the "Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District", would then be nominated for inclusion on the National Register.

- Representatives of the Town and the Narragansett and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) have continued to meet throughout the summer and fall of 2009 and worked to develop a concept for the heritage/cultural tourism program.
- In October 2009, a final concept for this proposed plan will be presented at the USET Conference for an endorsement by the twenty six Eastern member tribes.

## **Importance to the Nation and Region**

- The development of a cultural/heritage tourism program that seeks to encourage greater understanding and awareness of the Native American history and culture, specific to the Eastern tribes that inhabited our region for more than 12,000 years, will help to fill a major void that currently exists in our National educational curriculum.
- Few people are aware of the rich Native American heritage that is present here in Southern New England, and more specifically in the Connecticut River valley, a history and culture that is very different from that typically represented in a history of western Indian tribes, which itself is so often portrayed in stereotypical fashion.
- A cultural/heritage tourist destination in the Turners Falls area is considered appropriate and realistic given the wealth of heritage resources, representing both Native and Colonial (Deerfield) history, available in the region, which could be used in interpretative programming.
- The National Park Service has described the proposed "Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District" – recommended for inclusion on the National Historic Register – as a "large, connected cultural landscape that includes related historic sites, traditional cultural places and archeological sites." This area contains evidence of more than 12,000 years of continuous habitation by Native Americans – a continuum extending from the period following the retreat of the great North American glacier to the King Philip's War (1676-77).
- The Turners Falls area was also the location of key battles of the King Philip's War (1676-77), and the massacre at Turners Falls, considered a turning point in the war.
- Old Deerfield and Northfield, located with a ten mile radius of Turners Falls, were also key sites.
- King Philip's War has been referred to as America's forgotten war, and with it the many important lessons that could be learned from it. Also forgotten is the rich Native



American culture that had flourished in Southern New England region for more than 12,000 years, but suddenly disappeared following the King Philip's War. As Schultz and Tougas (1999) have point out

"Among the handful of seminal events that shaped our mind and continent, King Philip's War is perhaps the least studied and most forgotten. In essence, the war cleared Southern New England's native population from the land, and with it a way of life that evolved over a millennium. The Wampanoag, Narragansett, Nipmuc and other native populations were slaughtered, sold into slavery, or placed in widely scattered communities throughout New England after the war. In its aftermath, the English established themselves as the dominant peoples, - allowing the uninterrupted growth of England's northern colonies right up to the American Revolution." As important, the authors conclude: "King Philip's War became the brutal model for how the U.S. would deal with its native population. Later names like Tippicanoe, Black Hawk's War, the Trail of Tears, the Salt Creek Massacre, the Red River War, and Wounded Knee all took place under the long, violent shadow of King Philip's War" The authors conclude that In removing King Philip's War from our history books, we became according to the rubric, destined to repeat it. And that we did with a vengeance."

- From the national standpoint, the King Philip's War is also important because of its relevance to our current understanding of conflict and conflict resolution. Between 1620 (the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth) and 1676 (the eve of hostilities), Native Americans and Colonists lived in relative harmony throughout extremely provocative times, in what Russell Bourne (1990) referred to as "bi-racial society". For nearly fifty years, they lived by a simple treaty, where both parties pledged that they would not "doe hurte" unto the other.
- Shultze and Tougas (1999) also point to the obvious irony that exists between the generally accepted image of our early relations with Native Americans at Plymouth Colony and the reality that existed just a half century later, following the cessation of the hostilities associated with the King Philip's War.

"It seems particularly ironic, then, that Massasoit is seated prominently in our romanticized view of the first Thanksgiving, while the most graphic image of (King) Philip (also called Metacomb) – the son of Massasoit – is (Philip's) skewered head on the end of a pike and placed along a major Plymouth thoroughfare for most of a generation."

The authors conclude: "The real tragedy is how we came to embrace one image and lost the other."

## **Concept and Plan of the Native Cultural Landscape Park**

- The proposed heritage/cultural tourism program will be focused on the creation of a "Native Cultural Landscape Park", the boundaries of which correspond roughly to the



"Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District" that the National Park Service has determined is eligible for inclusion on the National Historic Register of Place

- The primary goals of the Cultural Park will be:
  - (1) **Preservation of Native Cultural sites** in that are currently listed or eligible for listing on the National Historic Register including the Riverside Archeological District, the Hanneman Site, the ceremonial stone site and other sites of related importance;
  - (2) Enhancement of the public's understanding and awareness of the area's rich Native American culture, particularly that of the tribes which inhabited Southern New England and this area for more than 12,000 years, through **Interpretive Exhibits, Programs and Activities**;
  - (3) Stimulation of economic development through a Program of **Heritage/Cultural Tourism**, which centers on the creative economy and ecotourism.
- Preservation objectives will be achieved both through formal listing of the Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District on the National Register and through efforts to increase the public's awareness of the importance of Native Cultural resources through educational exhibits and programs offered in the park.
- Interpretive Exhibits, Programs and Activities will be provided at a central Visitors Center, at the Great Falls Discovery Center, at Replica Native Villages, and at other sites, including the ceremonial stones site.
- The main Visitors Center will be located at the Cumberland Farms site, initially in the existing building, renovated for this purpose. As funding becomes available, a new, more architecturally suitable facility would be constructed on the site.
- The Visitors Center would include three types of exhibits:
  - (1) A primary exhibit featuring the 12,000 year chronology of Native American history and culture in the region, from Paleoindian through the outbreak of the King Philip's War in 1676. This exhibit would be centered on the Connecticut River (and its fertile floodplain) as a source of sustenance, transportation, commerce, communication and spiritual fulfillment. This story will also be supplemented by guided tours to Replica Native American villages, at yet to be determined sites.
  - (2) A special effort will be made to interpret the significance of the King Philip's War, both to the future of Native Americans in this region, following their defeat in 1677 and to the development of attitudes and prejudices towards Native Americans that carried forward into subsequent generations and became institutionalized in U.S. policy.



- (3) An exhibit recognizing the Reconciliation Ceremony/ Signing of an Agreement between the town and the tribes in May 2004 will be featured. This will include video, photographic and other documents along with an interpretation of their significance.
- Working in cooperation with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, a small exhibit will be developed at the Great Falls Discovery Center which will focus on the presence of ecological principles and sustainability in the way Native Americans used the Connecticut River and the watershed.
  - The Great Hall of the Discovery Center will also be the location of classes and workshops, presentations and temporary exhibits relating to Native American history and culture. These could include a wide range of scholarly and other topics including: events of the King Philip's War, Oral history and genealogy, Native American Arts and Crafts, Native Music, Food and Cuisine etc.
  - The project will work with Northeast Utilities on the development of an exhibit at the Fish Viewing facility which describes and illustrates what the falls area was like prior to the construction of the dams when Native Americans fished for shad and salmon.
  - Replica Native American villages will be constructed at yet to determined, satellite locations that will be selected because of their historical significance. Possible locations include Wissatinnewag (fishing station), riverfront site at Cabot Woods near Rock Dam, and Smead Island. These villages would interpret Native American life, and would include tribal customs, language, ceremony, ritual, building technique indigenous to the region, social life, farming techniques, fishing and hunting, etc.
  - Interpretive signage would be installed at selected sites along the river front and canal describing and illustrating significant historical events. These could include events associated with the King Philip's War and the Turners Falls massacre. A site located on the island between the canal and river may be developed as a burial site for Indian remains that are returned to the area.
  - A site along the Connecticut River would also be used, with the permission of Northeast Utilities, for the annual pow wows and Inter-tribal and public canoe competition.
  - Guided Native canoe tours above and below the falls would also be offered. These could include visits to islands used by Native Americans in early history (Smead) and others known for Eagle habitat.



## Implementation Plan

- Due to the size, scope and complexity of this concept, and the likely funding requirements, it is recognized that its implementation will require several years to implement.
- It is assumed that the plan will be implemented in at least three phases, over a five to ten year period.
- **Phase One:** Years One - Three. This phase will focus on
  - (1) Developing the organization and management capacity, necessary to implement this project. An effort will be made to build upon the existing institutions and capacity developed in conjunction with the Discovery Center and River Culture Program.
  - (2) Achieving buy-in by prospective partners (Narragansett Tribe, Wampanoag at Gay Head Aquinnah Tribe, Wiscatinnewag, the affected municipalities, Massachusetts DCR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Northeast Utilities etc.) is considered a crucial component of this project. This would include conducting the necessary negotiations with the towns to ensure that their economic development needs are consistent with the preservation plans being proposed. Consideration is currently being given to developing some form of priority permitting procedure whereby potential conflicts can be red-flagged and solutions worked out beforehand.
  - (3) Performing the necessary feasibility studies and marketing analyses, to flush out the concept being presented in this document and to validate assumptions; identifying alternative development schemes, developing cost estimates, and identifying funding strategies.
  - (4) Hiring a preservation consultant to prepare the necessary documents for a National Register nomination for the District.
  - (5) Developing programs, activities and events that can be rolled out immediately or with a minimum of effort, in conjunction with the River Culture Program (pow wows, canoe races, educational workshops and seminars at the Discovery Center, guided tours (ceremonial sites, canoe trips to islands etc.)
  - (6) Securing ownership of the Cumberland Farms building from the State.
  - (7) Securing funding for the development of interim use of the Cumberland Farms building as an exhibit center and implementing this strategy.



- (8) Conducting major fundraising activities to identify sources of funding for major capital expenditures and the annual operating budget.
- **Phase Two:** The second phase (Years Four and Five) will focus on more capital intensive work, including securing the funds needed for implementation and operation.
    - (1) Implementing design development for the preferred development scheme.
    - (2) Fund Raising for preferred scheme.
    - (3) Architectural Design for Permanent Exhibit Center and Replica Villages.
    - (4) Construction of smaller capital items (interpretive signage, including those developed in conjunction with other partnerships).
  - **Phase Three:** The third phase (Years Six through Ten). Implementation of the full capital plan including the construction of a permanent exhibit center, replica villages and exhibits.

## Local, State and Private Commitments

- The Town of Montague is committed to continue its work with the Native American Tribes consistent with the principles endorsed by the Board of Selectmen in the Reconciliation Agreement, including the delineation of boundaries for the Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District that recognize both the importance of historic preservation and the town's economic development needs.
- The Town will support the Narragansett and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) in their efforts to submit a National Register nomination for the "Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District", including securing the necessary funding for preservation consulting services.
- The Town will assist the tribes in securing funding from governmental and non-governmental (foundations) sources to conduct the necessary planning and feasibility studies, including marketing analyses, for the proposed "Native Cultural Park".
- The Town will work with the Tribes to secure, from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Cumberland Farms site for a Park Visitor's Center.
- The Town will work with the Tribes to secure federal, state and other funding for the design and construction of Park components.
- The Town will work with the Tribe to develop a Heritage/Cultural tourism program that will help to ensure the preservation of important Native American resources while at the same time promoting the town's economic development goals.



## **Impact of the Project**

- Enhance the public's awareness of the rich Native Cultural heritage that exists here in the Connecticut River Valley and in Southern New England.
- Create a National Model for Native American cultural/heritage tourism.
- Promote a greater understanding of the Native American role in the early development of our Nation and how many of attitudes and prejudices, and patterns developed during this period helped to influence future U.S. policy towards Native Americans.
- Encourage the development of a pro-preservation attitude with respect to the Native American historical and cultural resources.
- Stimulate the development of cultural/historic tourism in the region as a major prong of our economic development program consistent with earlier plans – attracting regional, national, and international visitors.
- Create spinoff development opportunities in the hospitality industry and creative economy and ecotourism, as envisioned in the town's economic development plans and plans for the Northern Tier.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

### **Background**

#### **National Significance of Great Falls Native Cultural Park**

Taken as a group, the themes and facets of Native American history that the Great Falls Native Cultural Park embodies present a unique picture of continuous habitation of the mid-Connecticut River Valley by Native American tribes from post-glacial times until their silencing and/or sudden departure from the area following their defeat in the King Philip War to their return in the modern era to their original homeland. The proposed park is significant because it contains a diverse grouping of sites associated with 12,000 years of continuous human use and activity centered on the river as a source of sustenance, transportation, commerce, communication and spiritual fulfillment. The determination by the National Park Service (NPS) that the ceremonial stones site (located at the Turners Falls Airport) is eligible for National Register listing is



extremely significant. It represents a first of a kind achievement in the Eastern United States, where native ceremonial customs have been largely misunderstood and until recently unrecognized and ignored by the both the traditional archeological scholarship and even the Massachusetts Historical Commission. However, even before this action, the area could boast of an impressive array of native historical and cultural resources, some either listed on the National Historic Register or eligible for listing - a continuum of native history and culture spanning twelve thousand years.

"This continuum (of native history and culture) is demonstrated in the stratification of sites (from Paleoindian to Late Woodland) making up the Riverside Archeological District (National Register, 1975) which covers a 674 acre area on the north and west bank of the Connecticut River in the towns of Gill and Greenfield and includes Wissatinnewag and the now submerged area known as Barton's Cove. Wissatinnewag, known as the place of the shining or slippery rocks, is located above the bluffs in Greenfield. An Indian fishing station, the site is linked to the water's edge by a series of trails. Stratified sites also exist on the opposite side of the river bank in the vicinity of the ceremonial hill. These include the Hanneman Site, a Paleoindian site with later hearth components; several sites on the East and West Mineral Hill, and a small Woodland (Algonquian) camp site on Wills Hill immediately south of the airport."

The resources present in the Turners Falls area offer numerous opportunities for education and interpretation, one of the primary objectives of the Native Culture Park. In making the determination that the ceremonial site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Service also recommends that consideration be given to the creation of an enlarged "Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District", that includes in addition to the ceremonial stone site, several existing National Register or Register-eligible properties (See attached map). The authors suggest that:

"The area can be seen as a large, connected cultural landscape that includes related historic sites, traditional cultural places and archeological sites....in which "much of the diverse cultural heritage of this area is related to nationally important themes of American pre-contact history as defined by the National Park Service's thematic framework, including peopling places, expressing cultural values and transforming the environment. ... Stone features, such as the ones evaluated here (in its determination of eligibility), may be integral parts of these properties. Historical accounts, Native American oral history and archeological data support the long standing value of this region for its abundance of fish, fertile meadows and bottomlands for farming and forest resources for hunting. These sources also corroborate the Native American's reverence for the region's distinctive topography of river, hills, streams and cataracts; as well as the use of the land and river in the vicinity of Wissatinnewag-Peskeomskut/Turners Falls for sacred ceremonial purposes."

### **Events Leading Up to and Including the King Philip's War**

The Turners Falls area is also significant because it was the location of several important events associated with the King Phillip's War and its aftermath. According to Sheldon (1895), in the



late 1660's, several tribes, which had combined to form the Pocumtuk Confederacy, occupied the land in the middle Connecticut River Valley. Both Native American oral history and Anglo-American literature substantiate that the portion of the river above the rapids, particularly the area surrounding Wissatinawag, Peskeomskut and the area below the falls were known as abundant fishing grounds and intertribal gathering places in the spring when the shad and salmon came upriver to spawn. Hosted by the Pocumtuk, tribes from many parts of New England gathered here at this time to harvest fish and for related ceremonies and celebrations. The return of the anadromous fish each year signified to the tribes the cyclical renewal of nature and a connectedness with the earth mother. The Pocumtuk tribe was also known for its successful use of the broad meadows at Deerfield, Greenfield and Northfield for cultivation of corn, squash and beans.

In 1669, the area to the west of the Pocumtuk (Deerfield) River was settled by Anglo-Americans, and renamed Deerfield. McClelland and Seibert (2008) point out: "The recording of 5 deeds for a total of 8,000 acres of land, much of it prime agricultural land, in the middle of the Connecticut Valley (within the present day Deerfield) in the late 1660's and early 1670's marked the beginning of valley fur-trader John Pynchon's efforts to make Indian land a commodity that could be bought and sold (replacing the declining trade in beaver pelts.) Such transactions and the attempts to form settlements that followed stemmed from questionable motivations and engendered conflicting understandings about the meaning of land ownership, thereby becoming a source for rising tensions between native groups and colonist ( from: Melvoin, 1989, Thomas, 1976).

Sheldon (1895) explains that the bounty offered by the river, arable fields, berry thickets and wild forests were the primary reason Peskeomskut was selected by Indian leaders for what appears to have been intended as a permanent settlement in 1675-76. He writes, "Nowhere else could provisions for the summer and stores for the winter be so easily procured." Narragansett tradition and Sheldon's account confirm that the encampment at the falls in 1676 had been established by Canonchet, the Narragansett's Chief sachem, as a refuge for Native American families who had been displaced by conflicts with the Mass Bay, Plymouth and Connecticut colonies and their militias. Says Sheldon:

"Their principal camp (was) at the head of the rapids on the right bank at Peskeomskut. Another was some distance above it, a third nearly opposite on the left bank, while a fourth was on Smead's Island, a short distance below, and still another at Cheapside guarded the ford of the Pocumtuk River. Besides these, every fishing place on the Connecticut as high as Ashuelot (a river near Hinsdale) had its camp."

In May 1676, the Indians who gathered at Wissatinnewag – Peskeomskut had already cultivated and planted the fields and were preparing for the annual fish harvest. On the evening of May 18<sup>th</sup>, Captain William Turner and his detachment of 150 men road north from Hadley to Peskeomskut. There, at dawn on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Turner's men opened fire on the wigwams, massacring the panicked men, women and children. The event is often viewed as a turning point in the war. As Russell Bourne points out, "After the Peskeomskut massacre, allied sachems openly discussed the strategy of King Philip and sending his head to the English as a prelude to



peace negotiations.” Within one month of the massacre, the English offensive in the Connecticut Valley ended suddenly. The end of the King Philip war came not long afterward.

The King Philip War (1675-76) marked the beginning of a transition during which a region dominated by Native American culture (fishing, hunting, farming, ceremonial activities and burials) for thousands of years was rapidly transformed into one organized in the form of small New England towns settled by yeoman farmers and enterprising tradesmen. The Anglo-American settlement of this region is represented by the Old Deerfield Historic District and a number of other National Register Districts, including Montague Center.

### **Broader Significance of the King Philip's War to Our Nation**

The King Philip's War resulted in the virtual extinction of the Native Culture in this region, and perhaps as important, it established the pattern of all subsequent relations between Native Americans and our country. The patterns established during the King Philip's War ultimately became institutionalized in our national policies, our treaties and our agreements, and in our attitudes, perceptions and prejudices toward Native population, as the country aggressively pursued its “manifest destiny”.

As Schultz and Tougas (1999) point out:

“Among the handful of seminal events that shaped our mind and continent, King Philip's War is perhaps the least studied and most forgotten. In essence, the war cleared Southern New England's native population from the land, and with it a way of life that evolved over a millennium. The Wampanoag, Narragansett, Nipmuc and other native populations were slaughtered, sold into slavery, or placed in widely scattered communities throughout New England after the war. In its aftermath, the English established themselves as the dominant peoples, - allowing for the uninterrupted growth of England's northern colonies right up to the American Revolution.” As important, the authors conclude, “King Philip's War became the brutal model for how the U.S. would deal with its native population. Later names like Tippicanoe, Black Hawk's War, the Trail of Tears, the Salt Creek Massacre, the Red River War, and Wounded Knee all took place under the long, violent shadow of King Philip's War.” The authors conclude that in removing King Philip's war from our history books, we became according to the rubric, destined to repeat it. And that we did with a vengeance.”

### **Lessons of the King Philip War**

King Philip's war, and the events which led up to it, provide an excellent teaching opportunity for the study in conflict and conflict resolution in general, and for understanding how our relations with Native Americans, in particular, deteriorated to the level they did in so short a time. For more than half a century, following the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, the English colonists and Native Americans lived in harmony in what Russell Bourne (The Red King's Rebellion: Racial Politics in New England 1675-78) referred to as a bi-racial society. He states:



"For 50 years, the simple 1620 treaty signed by Massasoit, a sachem representing, it was believed, the entire Wampanoag Federation and Plymouth's Governor, John Carter, worked splendidly. By the treaty, both parties pledged that they would not "doe hurte" unto the other, a pledge that was maintained throughout extremely provocative and risky times. Then in the 1660's came the cultural disturbance that led to the King Philip's war – the war that totally ruined the peaceful accommodations of two generations of native and English diplomats." He credits this achievement, in large part, to the presence of skillful diplomats among both the Native and Colonial populations. States Bourne: "For a number of reasons, the great diplomats of the first two generations of red-white contact were succeeded by a new generation of less accommodating, more bitter personages, of whom Metacom or Philip was one and Josiah Winslow was another."

The historical figures, King Philip, (also called Metacom), and his father, Massasoit, stand out in stark and tragic contrast to one another. Massasoit, sachem of the Wampanoag, is the man most closely associated with the natives' goodwill toward the struggling Plymouth Colony in the first years following the landing of the Pilgrims, while Philip is the leader of the rebellion, known as the King Philip's war. Schultz and Tougas (1999) concludes:

"It seems particularly ironic, then, that Massasoit is seated prominently in our romanticized view of the first Thanksgiving, while the most graphic image of Philip (for those who still study the war) is his severed head skewered on the end of a pike and placed along a major Plymouth thoroughfare for most of a generation. The real tragedy is how we came to embrace one image and lose the other."

## Concept of the Great Falls Native Cultural Park

The Great Falls Native Culture Park is a logical extension of the "Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District", an area that the National Park Service has recommended for nomination and eventual inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Primary Goals of the park would be:

- (1.) The **Preservation of Native Cultural sites** that are either currently listed or eligible for listing on the National Register including the Riverside Archeological District (NR 1975), the Hanneman Site, the ceremonial stone site and other sites of related importance
- (2.) Enhancement of the public's understanding and awareness of the area's rich Native Culture, particularly that of the tribes which inhabited Southern New England and this area for more than 12,000 years, through **Interpretive Exhibits, Programs and Activities**; and
- (3.) Stimulation of economic development through a program of **Heritage/Cultural Tourism**, which centers on the creative economy and ecotourism.

### Goals



- **Preservation: To Act upon the recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior, National Park Service (National Register of Historic Places) contained in a letter of December 11, 2008 (see Appendix \_\_\_\_\_) which encourage the creation of the Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District for eventual nomination and inclusion on the National Register.**

Although the final boundaries of the Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District have not as yet been determined, the National Park Service has recommended that "at a minimum (the boundaries) should be drawn to include the (Connecticut) river, islands and river's edge between the confluence of the Deerfield/Pocumtuck River on the north; the existing Riverside Archeological District on the north/west side of the river; and on the south/east side, East and West Mineral Road, Wills Hill, portions of the Montague Plain that were traversed by the North to South Indian Trail, the ceremonial hill, the Hanneman site and the plateau connecting these sites."

The District, as envisioned by the National Park Service, encompasses a very large land area (\_\_\_\_\_ square miles), overlaps four towns (Montague, Gill, Greenfield and Deerfield), and incorporates a diversity of ownership types. As such, the implementation of a preservation plan and strategy will require much discussion and negotiation between the tribes and other parties. The Town of Montague is prepared to take the lead in advancing this concept, and to assist in securing the necessary buy-in from neighboring communities, as well as affected public and private entities. The project is fortunate in having much of this land area already in some form of permanent (or near permanent) protection. These include all of the property abutting the Connecticut River (included in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License held by Northeast Utilities - the Barton's Cove Recreation Area, Cabot Woods, and riverfront property in the towns of Greenfield, Montague, Gill, and Deerfield). Other parcels that are permanently protected include the Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area (1,600 acres owned by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game); the Wissatannewag Preservation Site (a \_\_\_\_\_ acre site that is owned by Friends of the Wissatannewag, a non-profit organization based in Greenfield, whose mission is education and preservation of sacred Native sites); the Turners Falls Airport ceremonial site, as well as large tracts of property on West and East Mineral Hills and Wills Hill, that are protected by conservation easements.

The Town of Montague and participating Native tribes recognize the vital importance of developing a strategy that achieves preservation goals – shared in common by both parties – while at the same time accommodating the long term economic development needs of the town. This applies to a proposed 100 acre industrial park on the currently unprotected portion of the Montague Plains, and future airport development. Representatives of the town and native tribes are committed to work together on the development of management strategies, protocols and understandings that identify potential flashpoints early on in the planning process and resolve conflicts before they occur. The two parties promise to begin these discussions during the early stages of the park boundary delineation process.



- **Interpretation:** To interpret, from the Native American perspective, the rich history and culture of the Native American tribes that inhabited the Turners Falls Cultural Landscape District for more than 12,000 years. And to closely examine the nationally significant events of the King Philip's War – including those that took place in Turners Falls area – which led to the whole sale migration of Native American people from this region and led to the development of a mindset towards Native populations that influenced all subsequent relations with that population.

The interpretive program will focus, through exhibits, programs and activities, on a description of Native American habitation of the middle Connecticut/Quineticott River valley, which is associated with more than 12,000 years of human use and activity centered on the River as a source of sustenance, transportation, commerce, communication and spiritual fulfillment. The interpretive program will be carried out in exhibit center locations in Turners Falls, at Replica Native Village Sites (at locations yet to be determined), at ceremonial sites, and at the site of key historical events. This component will include

- (1) A description of the earliest known Native American inhabitants (Paleoindians), who were probably present on the scene as the great North American glacier began to recede from Southern New England up to 15,000 years ago. The Hanneman Site, located to the west of the ceremonial hill, and the Riverside Archeological District contain evidence of this earliest period of Native American history. Much of the Native folklore that has been passed down through the millennium may have had its origin during this earliest period.
- (2) A chronology of Native American history of the occupation and use in the middle Connecticut River Valley from the Paleoindian period, twelve thousand years ago, up until 1676 – the date marking the dominance of Anglo-American settlement in the region and dispersal of Native American groups (north to Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Canada, or west to the Hudson River Valley. These exhibits will interpret the lifeways of Native Americans who inhabited this region, including the village life of various tribes, the importance of the rich fishing (shad and salmon) and agricultural resources of the Connecticut River flood-plain, that drew Native Americans to this area, and made it a gathering place for inter-tribal ceremonies; the importance of commerce with Coastal tribes; and the sacred ceremonies associated with the ceremonial stones sites centered at the Turners Falls Airport site. The interpretive program will draw heavily upon the Native American oral history as well as the wealth of knowledge and documented history compiled in support of National Register and national register eligible sites.
- (3) A special effort will be made to interpret the significance of King Philip's War, both to the future of Native Americans in this region, following their defeat in 1676, and to the development of attitudes, perceptions and prejudices towards Native Americans that carried forward into subsequent generations and became institutionalized in U.S.



policy. Schutze and Tougas (1999) have described the King Philip's war as "among the seminal events that shaped our mind and continent... which is – perhaps the least studied and most forgotten." Exhibits will interpret both the general themes of the King Philip War as well as the specific, regionally significant themes and events, including the development of the Pocumtuck refuge at Wissatinnewag, and the Turners Falls Massacre on May 19, 1676– often considered a turning point of the war. This effort will focus on increasing the public's awareness and understanding of the events in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century that led to the breakdown in relations between Anglo-American Colonists and Native Americans. Why did relations deteriorate so fast, when for more than half a century following the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, the English colonists and Native Americans lived in harmony, in what Russell Bourne described as a "bi-racial society"? What prevented the two societies from achieving in 1660's the reconciliation that was achieved in 1620? How did the colonists and our forbears come to justify the actions that were taken following the King Philip's War and in subsequent encounters with the Native American culture and how were these viewpoints institutionalized?

- (4) On May 19, 2004, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town, Town of Montague, Board of Selectmen, joined with the Narragansett Tribe and Friends of the Wissatinnewag in a ceremony of spiritual healing and reconciliation acknowledging the tragic events that took place on the shores of the Connecticut River on May 19, 1676, and thereby began to put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest. The reconciliation also set in motion a process of continuing commitment on the part of the town and the tribes to maintain a continuing dialogue and communication on issues of mutual importance. The creation of a "Native Cultural Park at Turners Falls" is viewed as a continuation of this process. The reconciliation event is itself a story worth telling. Photographic images, video compiled by local access television crew, and a copy of the reconciliation agreement signed between Native and Town representatives will be incorporated into the exhibit. An effort will also be made to place the concept of reconciliation into the broader context of conflict resolution – which be a major focus of the interpretive programming.

- **Heritage/Cultural Tourism: To develop a program that promotes a better understanding of the Native American tribes that once inhabited this region, while at the same time fostering economic development through the attraction of tourism**

The concept assumes that there is a great deal of interest among American as well as foreign tourists in Native American culture, as evidenced by the success of similar heritage/cultural tourism efforts operated in the Western and Southwestern United States; and that this success can be replicated in Southern New England. The focus on eastern tribes, particularly when this earlier history is viewed as a model for understanding later Native American history, adds a unique element. A marketing study will need to be performed to determine the actual market potential of implementing this concept.



- (1.) The story about the Native American tribes that once inhabited this region, and suddenly disappeared following the King Philip's war is a story worth telling because of its obvious National significance. A greater understanding of the history and culture of the Native People will be achieved through exhibits, housed at the Visitor's Center and the Discovery Center, and possibly the Fish Ladder facility; interpretive signage at significant sites, as well as programs and activities that teach concepts employing the various learning styles: visual, audio, and tactile.
- (2.) A Calendar of Annual Events, Programs and Activities will be developed. This will be coordinated and jointly marketed through the existing River Culture Program. This will include special events such as the May 19<sup>th</sup> and August 13 Pow Wows, in recognition, respectively, of the anniversary of the Turners Falls Massacre and the Persid meteor shower, an astronomical event which has particular significance to Native Americans associated with the ceremonial hills at the Turners Falls Airport.
- (3.) Special Native guided tours to replica villages, including possibly a fishing station at Wissetinnewag and/or Cabot Woods and Ceremonial Stone Site at the Turners Falls Airport and other ceremonial sites, possibly part of a larger system, located within an estimated 16 mile radius of the Airport ceremonial stone site. Herb and nature walks. Guided canoe tours to Smead Island, Barton Island – sites of eagle nests - and the Deep Hole area will also be organized.
- (4.) Recreational Events featuring inter-tribal canoe competition, coordinated with the Spring pow wow. Open canoe competition. Fishing-related activities during the spring migration of the anadromous fish (shad and salmon). Tie-ins with programs on the anadromous fish restoration offered by Northeast Utilities at the fish ladder, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife at the Discovery Center and Conte Refuge.
- (5.) Workshops, seminars and conferences on various Native American and other topics to be held at the Great Hall, Discovery Center, making Peskeomskut/Wissetinnewag a "gathering place" once again. Topics could include Conflict Resolution or Native American Ecology or how Native Americans lived in harmony with the environment, as well as the many other topics that describe the lifeways of Native Americans.

## **What Would the Park Be Like?**

The purpose of this section is to portray the Park as a Visitor might see it, explaining the activities which would be available and the historical and cultural significance of each. Much of the Park activity is focused in the Downtown Turners Falls area (Intensive Use Zone), including the canal and riverfront park. Other activity is located at remote sites, including the Native American village replicas and ceremonial sites.

## **A "Cross Section" of Native American History and Culture in the Mid Connecticut River Area - 12,000 Years of Continuous habitation**

### **Entry and Orientation Area**



Visitors enter the Park from Interstate 91 and Route 2 across the Gill-Montague Bridge into Turners Falls. Signs direct visitors to the public parking area, located on Second Street – to the rear of the Visitor's Center.

## **Visitor's Center**

The primary exhibit center is located at the Cumberland Farms site. This could initially be in a renovated Cumberland Farms building, but the goal is to secure sufficient funding to construct a larger facility in which the architectural design is more suited to the proposed uses and Native themes.

At the exhibit center a major orientation exhibit will provide visitors with an overview of the Native American story – representing the various chronological periods of the 12,000 years of continuous habitation of the area, from the period coinciding with the retreat of the great North American glacier to the King Philip's War.

A special exhibit will focus on the King Philip War as a nationally significant event in terms of both its immediate impact upon the status of native peoples who had inhabited the middle Connecticut River area for thousands of year (i.e. the sudden disappearance of most Native peoples from this region in 1676), and on the pattern that it established for all subsequent relations between our country and Native Americans throughout our subsequent history.

An exhibit interpreting the Reconciliation process between the Town and Native tribes will also be developed. This is a special event that deserves to be recognized.

The parking lot of the visitor's center is also the embarkation point for guided tours.

## **Great Falls Discovery Center**

The Great Falls Discovery center is an environmental education center, operated jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, which focuses on the Connecticut River from its source on the Canadian border to Long Island sound. Its mission is to promote, through its exhibits and programs, a greater understanding of the Connecticut River as a resource, the diversity of plants and animals that are present in the watershed, and the importance of developing proper land use practices that will ensure the long term protection of this valuable resource. There are many opportunities for the development of Native American themes and exhibits that would be consistent with this mission. The most obvious of these is an exhibit that focuses on ecological principals, including sustainability, inherent in Native American early use of the river and the watershed. It is a part of the story that remains to be told. The size of this exhibit will be limited by the wall and other space currently available in the Discovery Center, which may limit the exhibits.

The Great Hall of the Discovery Center will be the venue for "gathering" at scheduled public forums, conferences and workshops, which will be marketed as part of the River Culture Program. Visitors will come to hear guest speakers with expertise on the heavier subjects - King Philip's War and Conflict Resolution, as well as such topics that explore various aspects of



Native American culture including family, language, ceremony and ritual, commerce, cuisine, nature and herbs, music, art and crafts (including a study of artwork produced by early Narragansett tribes), to name but a few of the potential. People of Native American origin will also be able to discover their roots, and connections with the region's earlier history through genealogy sessions, oral history and traditions.

## **Amphitheater**

The amphitheater located between the Visitors Center and the Discovery center is the site of outdoor exhibits and events. These could include such things as Native Arts and Crafts exhibits and sales, Indian farmer's market, Native music and storytelling etc.

## **Fish Ladder Facility**

The fish ladder facility is located adjacent to the Riverfront Park, and is operated by Northeast Utilities under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license. The facility is open \_\_\_\_\_ weeks of the year (May \_\_\_\_ - June \_\_\_\_\_), during the period of the annual anadromous fish migration. It is staffed by the utility; and it currently includes an interpretive element that is focused primarily on the scientific aspects of the migration process and efforts to restore shad and salmon to the Connecticut River. This program could be expanded to include exhibits that illustrate and described how the river and fishery was used by Native Tribes prior to the construction of a dam in 1798, when there was an abundance of shad and salmon.

## **Riverfront and Canal Sites, Programs and Activities**

The Park benefits from the existence of a Riverfront Park, and walkway/bikeway that extends from the former bridge abutment (an overlook of Barton's Cove) to Deerfield on the east side of the canal and to Cabot Woods and the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center on the west side. The area above the dam (between the Gill/Montague Bridge and the eastern limits of the utility-owned river park) would (with the permission of Northeast Utilities) be the site of the annual Native American pow wows and the canoe competitions. Other events including the annual Reconciliation Day (May 19<sup>th</sup>) could also be held here, as could other scheduled events involving the Connecticut River. Interpretive signage could also be installed along the bike trail recognizing important historical events. The area below the dam, including portions of the island between the canal and dam is envisioned as a potential site for the return of Native American remains being returned for burial under the \_\_\_\_\_ Act. A safe location at this site would also be developed as an overlook for viewing the falls when the dam is open and the river is experiencing high water, in much the same way that it did prior to the construction of dams in 1798. This would be most dramatic during the "spring freshet" and could coincide with other programs.



Northeast Utilities is currently required by FERC license to provide, by arrangement, canoe portage, so that they can canoe the upper pool of the river (Barton's Cove) take out their canoe, and then resume their trip on the lower river (below the General Pearce Bridge in Montague City) towards Sunderland. Special canoe trips that take in the upper river: Barton's Cove, the "Deep Hole", a site revered by Native Americans, and Barton Island, and Captain Kidd Island (near Northfield) two of the locations of the "eagles nests", as well as the lower river including Smead's Island – one of the locations of a tribal encampment in the period just prior to the King Philip's War – as well as other important sites will be provided to visitors. These canoe trips could be combined with fishing opportunities at the islands and/sites along the shore.

Moving down the canal, along the bikeway and walkway, visitors approach Cabot Woods. At Cabot Woods access is provided to the "Rock Dam", an area not far from the confluence of the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers. In low flow, there's an opportunity to beach comb. And because most of the area on both sides of the river is protected and pristine, it is possible to imagine what it was like when Native Americans fished along this shore thousands of years ago. Cabot Woods is also a possible location of one of the replica Village sites, if permission can be secured from the owner, Northeast Utilities.

Northeast Utilities currently is required by license and by arrangement to provide portage for canoes between the river above and below the dam.

Also located at Cabot Woods is the anadromous fish research center, federally operated facility that frequently opens its doors for public education programs focused on the fishery.

### **Replica Native American Villages and Ceremonial Sites**

Visitors will also have an opportunity to visit replica Native American villages and Ceremonial Stone sites at the Turners Falls Airport and elsewhere. These will be guided native tours that will originate at the Visitor's Center. The location of the replica villages has not as yet been determined, however, possible locations include Wissatinnewag, Cabot Woods, and \_\_\_\_\_. These villages would describe what a typical Native village looked like, the type of living environment that Native Americans from this region would have needed to survive the long, cold New England winter; tribe-specific language and culture; agricultural methods, hunting and fishing cycles, social life, trade and commerce, ceremony and ritual among others.



**C.**

**Battlefield Mapping Grant  
Application: Battle of  
Turners Falls  
(Wissatinnewag-  
Peskeompskut)**





*Board of Selectmen*  
**Town of Montague**

1 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 xt. 108  
FAX: (413) 863-3231

January 14, 2013

Kristin McMasters  
National Park Service  
American Battlefield Protection Program  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2255)  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: 2013 Battlefield Mapping Grant: Battle of Turners Falls (Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut)

Dear Ms. McMasters,

Enclosed you will find the Town of Montague's application for a 2013 ABPP Battlefield Grant as authorized and supported by the Montague Board of Selectmen.

In 2004 the Montague Board of Selectmen, Narragansett tribal elders, and Friends of Wissatinnewag conducted a reconciliation ceremony to acknowledge the tragic events that took place on the shores of the Connecticut River in 1676 and to put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest. As part of that ceremony the bodies committed to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation, and deepen the understanding for the rich heritage of indigenous peoples of the region.

This proposed study of the Battle of Turners Falls is an embodiment of that reconciliation. This significance of this project is exemplified by the strong support demonstrated by neighboring towns and through partnership with tribal leaders.

The Town of Montague looks forward to working with the National Park Service on this very importance piece of our collective identity.

Sincerely,

Frank Abbondanzio  
Town Administrator

Walter Ramsey  
Town Planner



**2013 ABPP BATTLEFIELD GRANT PACKAGE CHECK LIST**  
(must be included with original Battlefield Grant Application Package)

**COPY**

Check each box below to signify that the item is included in the grant package.

**Completed grant package must contain the following:**

- ☐ One (1) Grant Package Check list, completed and signed
- ☐ One (1) SF 424, completed and signed
- ☐ One (1) original five (5) page grant proposal with required attachments, paper clipped or binder clipped together.
- ☐ Ten (10) copies of the SF 424, five page grant proposal, and required attachments. Each proposal with attachments is paper clipped or binder clipped together.

**An original grant proposal must contain only:**

- ☐ \* A signed and completed SF424

\* SF424 is **hand-signed and dated**. SF424 submitted without original signatures will be discarded. The grant proposal will then be considered incomplete.

- ☐ \* A completed five (5) page ABPP Battlefield grant application

\* Application questions answered and typed within the five (5) page space provided on the correct page as provided. *Additional text will not be considered and may negatively impact the total grant score.*


- ☐ \* One (1) map - 8 1/2" x 11" (copy of USGS 1:24,000 scale, 7.5 min topo map) showing the location of the battlefield land boundaries, the proposed project area, and, if applicable, associated sites
- ☐ \* Letters from each Project Area Land Owner whose property is involved in the project, giving the applicant permission to undertake the proposed project on their property if access is required
- ☐ \* Letters of support from involved and interested Partners, SHPOs, and THPOs  
(\* **required documents**)

**An original grant proposal should contain the following, if applicable:**

- ☐ Letters from Matching Share Donors confirming their contribution(s) to the project
- ☐ Letters from Tribes indicating their level of support for the project
- ☐ Up to four (4) 5" x 7" photographs/graphics of project site (two [2] images per 8 1/2" x 11" page.)  
*Photos will not be returned and extra material will be discarded*

**NOTE:** covers, extra maps, vitas, resumes, separation pages, bibliographies, historic overviews, photographs, graphics, product examples of web sites, brochures, CDs, etc. will be removed and thrown away. Please note, excessive/additional materials may make your grant ineligible.

The undersigned affirms that the ABPP Grant Package is complete per this check list:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

12/17/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Make sure your grant package is complete before submitting it to the ABPP.

Incomplete packages will not be considered and will be discarded without action or notification.



903



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)**  
**2013 Battlefield Grant Application**

Applicants must submit one (1) original and ten (10) copies of a complete grant application for each project. All questions **must be answered in the space provided** in font size 10, 11, or 12. Read each question's instructions and any additional information provided in the Application Guidelines and Grant Application Frequently Asked Questions before completing the application. This application is five (5) pages in total. Any additional pages beyond five (5) pages will be discarded.

**Project Summary (15 points)**

Score is based on the applicant's ability to succinctly describe the project and to clearly convey the project objective.

1. Project Title : Battle of Turners Falls (Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut), May, 1676, Montague, Ma.  
(same as #11 on Standard Form 424 – **10 words or less**):

Type of Project (select one only):  
☐ Site Identification & Documentation  
☒ Planning & Consensus Building  
☐ Interpretation or Education

Who on **ABPP staff** did you contact in 2012 or 2013 in regards to this application?

Name: Ms. Kristen McMasters; Phone number 202-354-2037

2. Briefly, state the project preservation objective/goal and project description. In a partnership, the Town of Montague and the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office propose a pre-inventory project to identify the likely locations of the King Philip's War (1675-76) Turner's Falls Battlefield and associated sites. The battle has long been noted locally with markers indicating what is thought to be its general location and where Capt. Turner, leader of the colonial forces, was killed along the English retreat route. We will examine documentary records and archaeological collections, collect Tribal and Yankee oral histories and use military terrain analysis (*Battlefield Survey Manual* 2000:7) to identify the locations of the battlefield and its associated sites (militia encampments, the large Indian settlement Peskeompskut-Wissatinnewag that included several spatially distinct, related campsites), and the avenues of English approach and withdrawal. We will contact landowners of these areas to secure permission to conduct future archaeological testing; we will develop a research design to confirm site locations and to establish their boundaries with future testing. An ABPP grant will enable us to develop a phased plan to protect the Battlefield, as well as its associated sites and provide strong information for the locally proposed Great Falls Native Cultural Park.
3. List each battlefield or associated site included in this project.

**Battlefield Name:** The Battle of Turner's Falls (Peskeompskut-Wissatinnewag)

- ☐ National Historic Landmark Specify NHL name \_\_\_\_\_  
(see list at <http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/default.cfm>)
- ☐ National Register of Historic Places Specify NRHP name \_\_\_\_\_  
(see list at <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/research/nris.htm>)
- ☐ CWSAC Priority I or II (if applicable) Specify CWSAC name \_\_\_\_\_  
(see list at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/priority.htm>)
- ☐ RevWar Priority I or II (if applicable) Specify RevWar/War 1812 name \_\_\_\_\_  
(see list at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/Rev1812Study.htm>)

4. Explain the **significance** of your battlefield within the space provided.

The battle was a major turning point in the war and in the lives of Indian people in the Connecticut River Valley as it brought to an end a "long period of Native American settlement..." (DOE, Turner Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site, NPS, 2008). The area, which archaeological information and tribal oral tradition say was a major gathering place for thousands of years, in 1676 became a large, multi-tribal war refugee village and it was a supply base for Indian military efforts in Western Massachusetts. Attacking and destroying this village took away a major and reliable source of food and it destroyed the tribes' gun repair and blacksmithing facility that supported the war effort. After this attack, military activities were dominated by the allied colonial forces until war's end later that summer.

5. List and **quantify** all final products: A report (20 + 3 NPS) that includes: (1) GIS mapping of the battlefield, associated sites, and approach and withdrawal routes; (2) an historical account of the battle; (3) a research design for future testing; (4) a provisional & draft battlefield protection plan for long-range research, preservation and education.



## Threat to Site (20 points)

### 6. Current Land Use and Classification. Answer each of the following:

A. What is the **predominant** current land-use of the project area?

- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Residential
- ☐ Recreational/Open Space
- ☐ Agricultural/Rural
- X Other (specify) all of the above

B. What is the current zoning classification of the project area as determined by the local planning office?

- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Residential
- ☐ Recreational/Open Space
- ☐ Agricultural/Rural
- X Other (specify) all of the above

### 7. Project and Battlefield Size.

A. What is the total size of the entire **historic battlefield**? The project study area encompasses about 11,300 acres within the towns of Deerfield, Greenfield, Gill and Montague. We expect the battlefield to be much smaller; and the core area of fighting and associated sites to be about 400 acres (excluding the long, narrow approach and retreat routes)

B. How much of the battlefield remains relatively unchanged since the battle? Most of the approach and retreat routes and associated sites are undeveloped; the core area of fighting is residential

C. How much of the remaining battlefield is threatened? Approximately 200 acres

D. What is the total size of the Project Area for this proposed grant? c. 11,300 acres

### 8. How much land (by % or acres) within the Project Area is in each of the following ownership categories?

- ☐ Private 90%
- ☐ Public 5%
- ☐ Private Non-Profit 5%

### 9. What are the current threats to the remaining battlefield or associated site. Describe how it has affected and may affect the condition or integrity of the battlefield.

The primary identifiable threat to the battlefield project area is the accumulated impacts of the many small actions of scores of landowners who currently do not have reliably empirical information concerning the presence of the battlefield and related artifacts on their properties. It is thought that the core area of fighting is largely contained within the residential area of Riverside and within inundated areas upstream from the dam at the falls. Associated battlefield sites are both within other residential areas and on relatively unaltered land. Without good spatial information about the location and integrity of the battlefield and its associated sites and material record, the inadvertent and chronic attrition to these resources will continue. Information compiled by this project will lessen this attrition as it will be used by local officials to inform landowners about the presence of the battlefield and through education and public outreach to build local landowner consensus for protecting it.

### 10. Explain how the threats identified in #9 will impact specific battlefield resources and describe the importance of each resource to the overall preservation of the battlefield.

Colonial accounts indicate that the streams, wetlands, hills, rivers and falls determined battle tactics and outcomes and that these features also determined the routes of the English approach and retreat, the locations of associated sites, as well as the core fighting area. Artifactual evidence of the battle, the encampments and associated sites will occur in the top foot or two of soils, so protecting these areas from inadvertent and unplanned development is critical to maintaining the sense of place represented by the landforms and the material record of battle itself. In the core fighting area, we expect material evidence to occur throughout many residential backyards and open spaces. It is critical that landowners have good information about the battle so they can actively work with local officials to protect the battlefield resources on their property.

### 11. How long will it take for the threats identified in #9 above to affect the site?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- X 1 - 5 years
- ☐ 5 - 10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years



### Preservation Opportunity (30 points)

Score is based on the appropriateness of the project to help protect the battlefield or historic site from the threats identified in #9 or to help protect the site before potential threats develop.

12. Describe how the proposed project will address the threat(s) identified in #9. We will hold informational meetings for the general public and meet individually with town officials and landowners of parcels considered to be likely battlefield and site locations. The goals of the meetings will be to educate the public about the importance of the battles and to acquaint them with the goals of our study. We will seek written permission from landowners to conduct future archaeological testing to determine and confirm the presence and boundaries of battlefields and associated sites. Determining the locations of these sites, in cooperation with landowners and local officials, will provide baseline data for the development of a long-range plan to preserve and protect the battlefield.

13. How much of the battlefield will this project protect? About 400 acres

14. Check all categories of previous preservation work, by any entity, which has taken place at the battlefield where the site is threatened. Cite study and year on the right side for each checked box.

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research Nassaney, Michael "The Significance of the Turner's Falls Locality in ... Archaeology,"	1999
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resource Research, Identification and Documentation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archeological Survey and Inventory	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Registration (State and National Register Nominations) Riverside Archaeological District	1975; Turner's Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site 2008
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Advocacy and Outreach	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation or Cultural Resource Management Planning	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Master or Strategic Site Plans "Conceptual Plan for the Great Falls Native Cultural Park" (Draft	2009)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interpretive Planning and Programs	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	

15. How does this project contribute to the long-range preservation goals for the site?

The Great Falls Native Cultural Landscape Park was proposed locally in 2009 and is currently under discussion by local, tribal and other officials. The Park would encompass the battlefield area and cover 12,000 years of indigenous history. It would include educational, cultural and interpretive programs designed to encourage scholarly research and economic development through a program of heritage/cultural tourism. The proposed ABPP project will bring together all available documentary, oral and tribal information about the battlefield, provide the likely locations of the battlefield and its associated sites and produce a historical narrative about the battle and King Philip's War in the Connecticut River Valley. It would also build consensus among property owners that the battlefield is historically significant and provide the means to access properties for future archaeological testing. Funding from the ABPP will provide the seed money to begin the process of defining the battlefield, involving the community in the long-term planning to protect the sites, and building a strong link to the proposed Cultural Park.

16. Why is the proposed project the most appropriate preservation action or strategy for this site at this time?

There has been no systematic study of the war-related documents, oral histories, or local artifact collections; nor has there been any systematic archaeological testing directed at locating and delineating the Turner's Falls Battlefield and its associated sites. Recently the Town of Montague Board of Selectmen held a reconciliation ceremony with the Narragansett Indian Medicine family to acknowledge the Turner's Falls Battle. The Town has also discussed with NPS and Tribal officials the possible role of the battlefield in promoting Preservation Tourism. The availability of good, empirical planning information about the battlefield and its associated sites locations within Montague and the adjacent towns of Gill, Greenfield and Deerfield are essential for this effort. Our proposed project will provide local officials and landowners with the information they need to begin to develop a phased plan to target and protect key battlefield areas and before development makes the attempt moot.

17. What special factors contribute to the present opportunity for this project (e.g., personnel, timing, availability of matching funds, community support, or other unique circumstances)?

The reconciliation ceremony between the Town of Montague and the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the recent finding by the NPS that the Turner's Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site is eligible for listing on the National Register have focused public attention on the historical significance of the Turner's Falls Battlefield. Significantly, these efforts have gained the support of neighboring towns of Gill and Greenfield where much of the battle, and the colonial approach and retreat, took place. At the same time, preliminary discussions between some town officials, the NPS and Tribal officials about promoting cultural tourism and establishing a Great Falls Cultural Landscape Park further increases awareness and support. Moreover, a great deal of research has taken place over the past decade on King Philip's War, 17<sup>th</sup>-century settlement patterns and Indian-colonial relations, of which has been done with ABPP projects in Rhode Island and Connecticut. Dr. Paul Robinson, formerly State Archaeologist and Principal Investigator on the RI ABPP project and project partner, NITHPO (Doug Harris) are currently available to serve as close and continuing advisors on this project.



**Tasks, Schedule, and Products (10 points)**

18. In the space below, state each major task (activity) necessary to complete the project with a schedule and cost estimate for its completion, and the expected product that will be produced. Demonstrate a careful consideration of this budget.

<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Time Required to Complete</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Specific Products</u>
Meet with NPS, examine primary source materials and soil maps, collect Indian and Yankee oral histories and conduct site visits to identify likely battlefield and associated sites locations; make GIS map of probable locations.	500 hours	\$27,000	Historical narrative and maps of likely battle and associated sites
Meet with landowners, neighboring town officials and other interested groups; hold six (6) information sessions for general public.	100 hours	\$6,000	Stronger ties with community; summary reports of three (3) public meetings
Secure permission from c.20 landowners to test likely battlefield and associated sites locations	100	\$5,500	Support from specific landowners for future testing of likely areas
Develop research design for determining precise locations of battle and sites	40	\$2,500	A research design for verifying site locations
Prepare and produce final report	100	\$5,500	20 copies of final report & 3 acid-free copies & 1 digital copy for NPS

**Applicant Qualifications (5 points)**

The applicant organization's qualifications are rated according to its experience with similar grant projects and according to the applicant's ability to accurately and concisely complete this application.

19. Describe the applicant **organization's** qualifications for handling this type of project and its experience in managing grants or contracts.

The Town of Montague has extensive experience handling this type of project and in managing grants or contracts. Over the past thirty years, the Town has been directly or indirectly involved in the application, award and administration of nearly \$40,000,000 in state or federal grants. Montague has been a recipient of Community Development Block Grants nearly every year during this time period. Managing these grants has involved drawdown of funds, maintenance of special accounts, procuring the services of consultants and contractors, paying bills, monitoring performance, involving the public, and the overseeing of audits. During this time there have never been any audit findings associated with any of its grant management.

20. Describe the proposed **project manager's** qualifications or experience for handling this type of project. Note any similar projects he/she has managed (do NOT attach resumes or vitae)

The Project manager will be the Town Planner and Conservation Agent for the Town of Montague. This position is full time 35 hours/week. This position is held by Walter Ramsey. He holds a Masters Degree in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts. Since 2010 he has secured and managed over \$500,000 in planning and special project grants from federal and state resources. Prior to working for the Town of Montague Walter interned with the Denali Commission to develop community plans for remote indigenous Alaskan communities through stakeholder input and consensus building.

21. Has the applicant organization received grant assistance from ABPP in the past? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
 If Yes, indicate year(s) completed and project title(s) below:  
 Is/was the grant product extended/late? ☐ Yes ☐ No



### **Support and Participation (10 points)**

Consider all entities that are involved in, and affected by, this project. Include letters stating their support. Partners should address letters of support by the deadline, to the applicant not the ABPP. Letters are part of the grant package due at the ABPP on January 17, 2013 COB 4 pm hand stamped in (post marks and delivery receipts not accepted after deadline). **All late letters will be discarded.**

#### **22. List all Land Owners in the project area whose property is involved in the project.**

(Also attach letters from each Land Owner whose property requires access for this grant giving the applicant permission to undertake work on their property.)

The grant will be used to identify current and potential landowners.

Because the battlefield is located in several Towns in the region, The Town of Montague proposes an ad-hoc advisory board made up of representation from each of the affected towns (4) and tribes to guide the process. The board will recommend the selection of the consultant and the consultant will report to the ad-hoc advisory board. Up to two members from each town or tribe may sit on the board. The purpose of this group is to ensure that each political entity is fairly represented in the study. The advisory board will be created upon the award of the grant.

#### **23. Describe the extent to which the public is and will be involved in this project. Note Federal Lands.**

Increasing awareness and building consensus about the historical importance of the Turners Falls (Peskeompscut-Wissatinnewag) Battlefield and the need to protect the battlefield and its associated sites are major components of this project. Determining the likely locations of the battlefield and associated sites will be accomplished primarily with documentary, collections, and oral historical research. We expect that some landowners have artifact collections from the battlefield. It will be important to communicate well with these landowners to assure that they support our research. Of great importance to the future archaeological verification and protection of these areas is the cooperation and participation of specific landowners, the general public, local historians and local officials. We will work directly with each of these groups by meeting with them individually and in groups, keeping them updated on our progress and by providing them with educational materials and presentations.



Captain Turner's Approach and Retreat

Battlefield  
Core Area

Indigenous Forces Defense Approach

**American Battlefield Protection Program  
2013 Battlefield Grant Application  
Battle of Turner's Falls  
(Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut)  
PROPOSED STUDY AREA**



0 0.5 1  
Miles

Map produced by Montague  
Planning and Conservation for  
informational purposes.

USGS MA Quad 42-Greenfield 1990

12/12/12

Montague



## Appendix A- Photographs



The Bars section of Old Deerfield referred to fences separating fields and livestock. This was the site of skirmishes between English settlers, militia, and Native American forces during King Philip's War. This photo depicts the southern-most section of the scope of study proposed in this grant application. Pocumtuck Mountain is in the background.



Looking toward Gill from Turners Falls. Connecticut River in the foreground. This photo depicts the core battlefield area, which occurred just upstream from the Turners Falls Dam.



# APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

OMB Approval No. 0348

<b>1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:</b> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction		<b>2. DATE SUBMITTED</b> 1/14/2013	Applicant Identifier																												
<b>5. APPLICANT INFORMATION</b> Legal Name: <u>Town of Montague</u>		<b>3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE</b> State Application Identifier																													
Address (give city, county, State, and zip code): <u>One Avenue A Turners Falls, MASS.</u> <u>01376</u>		<b>4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY</b> Federal Identifier																													
<b>6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN):</b> <u>04-6001231</u>		<b>7. TYPE OF APPLICANT:</b> (enter appropriate letter in box) <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">C</span> A. State B. County C. Municipal D. Township E. Interstate F. Intermunicipal G. Special District H. Independent School Dist. I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning J. Private University K. Indian Tribe L. Individual M. Profit Organization N. Other (Specify) _____																													
<b>8. TYPE OF APPLICATION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> A. Increase Award    B. Decrease Award    C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration    Other(specify): _____		<b>9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY:</b> <u>National Park Service</u>																													
<b>10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER:</b> TITLE: _____		<b>11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:</b> <u>American Battlefield Protection Program</u> <u>2013 Battlefield Grant Application</u> <u>Battle of Turners Falls</u>																													
<b>12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):</b> <u>Montague, Gill, Greenfield, Deerfield, MASS.</u>		<b>13. PROPOSED PROJECT</b> Start Date: <u>7/1/2013</u> Ending Date: <u>6/30/2014</u>																													
<b>14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:</b> <u>MASS. 2nd - Rep Jim McGovern</u>		<b>15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:</b> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:20%;">a. Federal</td> <td style="width:20%;">\$</td> <td style="width:40%; text-align: center;">40,000</td> <td style="width:20%; text-align: right;">00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Applicant</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. State</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Local</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Other</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>f. Program Income</td> <td>\$</td> <td></td> <td>00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>g. TOTAL</td> <td>\$</td> <td>40,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>		a. Federal	\$	40,000	00	b. Applicant	\$		00	c. State	\$		00	d. Local	\$		00	e. Other	\$		00	f. Program Income	\$		00	g. TOTAL	\$	40,000	0
a. Federal	\$	40,000	00																												
b. Applicant	\$		00																												
c. State	\$		00																												
d. Local	\$		00																												
e. Other	\$		00																												
f. Program Income	\$		00																												
g. TOTAL	\$	40,000	0																												
<b>16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?</b> a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON: DATE _____ b. No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW		<b>17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No																													
<b>18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.</b>																															
a. Type Name of Authorized Representative <u>Frank Abbonizio</u>		b. Title <u>Town Administrator</u>																													
c. Signature of Authorized Representative <u>[Signature]</u>		c. Telephone Number <u>413.863.3200 x108</u>																													
d. Date Signed <u>1/14/2013</u>		e. Date Signed <u>1/14/2013</u>																													



# NITHPO

## Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Narragansett Indian Longhouse  
P. O. Box 700  
Wyoming, Rhode Island 02898



11 January 2013

Mr. Christopher Boutwell  
Chairman, Montague Board of Selectmen  
1 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

RE: **Battle of Turners Falls (Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut) May 19, 1676.**

Greetings, Mr. Boutwell:

With the authorization of Medicine Man / THPO John Brown, the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NITHPO) is honored to partner with Town of Montague in seeking a National Park Service battlefield mapping grant for the Battle of Turners Falls (Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut) May 19, 1676.

On May 19, 2004, at the invitation of the Montague Select Board, Narragansett Chief Medicine Man Lloyd "Running Wolf" Wilcox performed a "Burying of the Hatchet" ceremony seeking reconciliation with the spirits of those Tribal people who were killed during the surprise raid by the Turner Militia in the dawn hours of May 19, 1676. The Narragansett were ancient cousins of the Pocumtuc, the original people of this battlefield area. In 1675 the chiefs of the primary regional Tribes that were engaged in the War had gathered in nearby Squaheag to assess the peace versus combat options of their Tribal defense against English colonial usurpation of ancient Tribal homelands. In the wake of the movements of their leaders and their combatants, hundreds of war driven Tribal citizens had also gathered in Pocumtuc country. It was Narragansett Chief Sachem Canonchet who, seeing the plight of the refugees, had facilitated the establishment of the refugee settlements at the falls. Along with many surprised defenders, Narragansett combatants fought and died in response to the early morning militia assault on the women, children, elders and wounded who were encamped as refugees at the falls.

To finally research, ground truth and chronicle the events of this little noted, but important western theatre of what is known as King Philip's War is long overdue. In the examination of the many perspectives (Tribal and Militia) on the Battle at Turners Falls, we seek to move closer to an understanding of truth at this place and the opportunity to truly find reconciliation.

Tau-botdan-tamock wut-che wame (We are giving thanks for all things.)

Doug Harris, Preservationist For Ceremonial Landscapes / Deputy THPO  
Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NITHPO)





# Historic Deerfield

*Opening Doorways To The Past.*

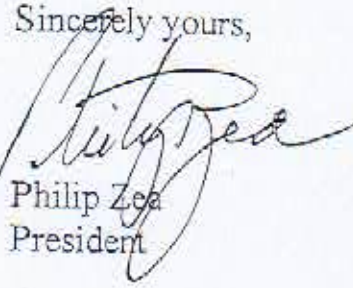
January 7, 2013

Christopher Boutwell, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen  
Town of Montague  
1 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376

Dear Mr. Boutwell,

Thank you for your letter of December 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the significance of Turners Falls and Captain William Turner to understanding the early colonial wars, King Philip's War in particular during the mid-1670s, and Native relationships with allies and foes alike. The importance of the Great Falls to Native culture transcends thousands of years as a place to meet, to fish and to live seasonally. Within that, the efforts of King Philip, or Metacomet, to drive the English back into the sea three generations after settlement at Plymouth at the head of an unheard of coalition of Native allies is especially interesting as both a military and cultural event. That a major chapter in this story played out along the banks of the Connecticut River at Turners Falls on May 19, 1676, where English triumph was followed by Native success, is certainly worthy of preservation given the loss of so many sites and artifacts from 17<sup>th</sup>-century Massachusetts. I certainly hope that you are successful in winning the American Battlefield Protection Program grant.

Sincerely yours,



Philip Zee  
President



# POCUMTUCK VALLEY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1870

MEMORIAL HALL MUSEUM & INDIAN HOUSE MEMORIAL

10 MEMORIAL ST., P.O. BOX 428

DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01342

Timothy C. Neumann, Executive Director

Tel: 413-774-7476

Fax: 413-774-6400

[www.deerfield-ma.org](http://www.deerfield-ma.org)

January 10, 2013

National Park Service  
American Battlefield Protection Program  
2013 Battlefield Grant Application  
Battle of Turner's Falls  
(Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut)

To whom it may concern:

The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) of Deerfield, Massachusetts strongly supports the application of the Town of Montague and Narragansett Nation for a 2013 American Battlefield Protection Program grant. The Turner's Falls Fight battlefield is an extremely important historical site.

The Connecticut River battle site has been very important to PVMA for over a hundred years. Important in its own right, events there were also pivotal to a later 1704 raid on Deerfield. The Association owns a 19<sup>th</sup> century stone monument to the battle in Gill, at the top of the embankment near the bridge crossing over from Turners Fall and Route 2.

In PVMA's own work to interpret the 1704 raid we produced an award winning website: <http://www.1704.deerfield.history.museum/> which includes an account on the Turners Falls battle as important to the overall European and native roots of 1704: <http://www.1704.deerfield.history.museum/scenes/scene.do?title=Peskeompskut>. I recommend a brief look at this website in your deliberations concerning the battlefield application.

PVMA is pleased to see the Town of Montague take the lead in additional research and advocacy for this sacred spot. I look forward to working with them.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy C. Neumann





William F. Martin  
Mayor

City known as the Town of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1549 • Fax 413-772-1309  
EricT@greenfield-ma.org • www.greenfield-ma.gov

January 11, 2013

Christopher Boutwell, Chair  
Montague Board of Selectmen  
One Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Dear Mr. Boutwell:

I am writing to express my support for the application of the Town of Montague, Massachusetts for a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program for a research study of the Turner's Falls Battlefield.

The battlefield is thought to center at the Great Falls on the Connecticut River and spreads to include portions of the Towns of Greenfield, Gill and Montague. The Great Falls was the location of an important battle in King Philip's War (1675-1676), a climatic struggle that embroiled the native tribes and colonial settlers throughout New England. The battle was a major turning point in the war as it destroyed the large refugee village Peskeompskut that also served as a major supply center and gun repair facility. After this attack, military activities were dominated by the allied colonial forces until war's end just months later.

While the historical significance of the battle is established, there is much that remains to be learned about the battlefield. The historical setting at the Great Falls has been altered, but the impacts of that alteration have not been evaluated. Much of the surrounding area, however, through which forces advanced and retreated and which holds associated native and non-native sites and encampments is relatively unaltered. Through this proposed study, the Town of Montague will be able to take important steps to assemble a fuller history of the events and correlate the documentary accounts of the battles with the physical features of the landscape. This new information will be shared with landowners, local officials and the interested public to engage them in a joint effort to recognize and protect this remarkable place.

This grant proposal is an important initiative in the understanding and preservation of our 17<sup>th</sup>-century past and I fully support it in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric Twarog", is written over a horizontal line.

Eric Twarog, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development





**Historical Commission**

Randall Hansis, Chair

114 Main St

Greenfield, MA 01301

January 9, 2013

Christopher Boutwell, Chair  
Montague Board of Selectmen  
One Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Dear Mr. Boutwell:

Ever since arriving in this area and attending events at Turner's Falls High school back in the '90's I have been wondering when the town and the school district would begin to address the injustice of nomenclature: particularly the linking of Capt. Turner with his victims by calling the local sports teams the "Turners Falls Indians." The insult was highlighted in earlier times by the massive painting of an American Great Plains chief in massive headdress on the wall of the school auditorium. Fortunately, that malaprop was removed a decade ago. And, hopefully, this study will begin a larger quest for justice by returning to a more honest and accurate change in naming at some future date.

The Greenfield Historical Commission wishes to join Montague, Gill and Deerfield in supporting the application for a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program for studying the sad events of the Metacombet uprising and subsequent battle at Great Falls. Along with the earlier battle in Mystic, Connecticut, this event set the pattern for tragic relations between native Americans and advancing European colonists and descendants: a pattern that would last until Wounded Knee more than two centuries later.

We hope that the study will be fully funded and result in a greater and more cohesive body of knowledge and artifacts that can fuel both further archeological study, and eventually, a site for educating the public. Both sides of the battle need to tell their stories, and the prejudices of the times need to be honestly presented. Some of those persistent attitudes were still



evident in the twentieth century placards marking events from those earlier centuries. And those signs still exist in our communities.

The one specific request that the Greenfield Historical Commission makes as you proceed is to include a representative from each vested town in the governing or advisory board that will oversee the study. This will be important for broadening the research and contributions of each town, but it will also be important for conveying finding of the study to a broader regional public.

Best wishes on your application. I have reviewed it in detail and am sharing it with fellow Greenfield Commission members. Keep us posted on your progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randall Hansis".

Randall Hansis Ph.D, Chair  
Greenfield Historical Commission

***Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS***

*Town Hall, Greenfield, Mass. 01301*



HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
TOWN OF GILL  
MASSACHUSETTS



Town Hall  
Gill, MA 01354

10 January 2013

Mr. Christopher Boutwell  
Chairman, Montague Board of Selectmen  
1 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Dear Mr. Boutwell,

I am writing this letter of support from the Gill Historical Commission and ask that it be included in the 2013 Battlefield Mapping Grant Proposal to the National Park Service.

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) enthusiastically supports the project on the Battle of Turners Falls (Wissatinnewag-Peskeompskut) May 1676. Our support for the project is based on our commitment to accurate historical research and understanding as well as to active education about Gill history and preservation of our historical sites.

We endorse the amendment that provides for a multi-town and tribal advisory board and look forward to regular communication from that board so that the GHC may be actively involved. We see collaboration and communication with other towns and tribe representatives as an exciting part of this project.

Please enclose this letter of support from the Gill Historical Commission in the 2013 Battlefield Mapping Grant proposal. We heartily endorse the project.

Sincerely,

Cristin Carpenter, Chair

Cc: Gill Selectboard  
Doug Harris  
Paul Robinson



TOWN OF GILL  
MASSACHUSETTS



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

January 14, 2013

Mr. Christopher Boutwell  
Chairman, Montague Board of Selectmen  
One Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Dear Mr. Boutwell:

I am writing this letter to convey the Gill Selectboard's enthusiastic endorsement of Montague's application for a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program for a research study of the Battle of Turner's Falls.

Our Selectboard was pleased to hear of the Gill Historical Commission's strong support for the grant application, and wish to echo their sentiments – that a battlefield research project will identify and preserve important historical details of the events of May 1676, and will provide opportunities to educate citizens about historical sites in Gill and the surrounding area.

Please enclose this letter of support in your 2013 Battlefield Mapping Grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Ray Purington  
Administrative Assistant to the Gill Selectboard

Cc: Gill Historical Commission  
Doug Harris  
Paul Robinson





# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Mr. Christopher Boutwell, Chair  
Montague Select Board  
One Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

January 14, 2013

Re: 2013 NPS Battlefield Mapping Grant: Battle of Turners Falls

Dear Mr. Boutwell:

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Town of Montague's application to the National Park Service for a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program. The requested funding will allow Montague and its partners to research the battlefield at Turners Falls including portions of the towns of Greenfield, Gill, Montague and Deerfield. This area, known as Great Falls, was the scene of a critical battle during King Philip's War (1675-1676), a struggle that embroiled Native American tribes and Colonial settlers throughout New England.

Research on this important event will support efforts to increase public awareness of Native American-Colonial relations and can support heritage tourism and preservation in the Town and the region. Through this proposed study, the Town of Montague and its partners will be able to take important steps to assemble a fuller history of the events and correlate the documentary accounts of the battles with the physical features of the landscape. This new information will be shared with landowners, local officials and the public to engage them in a joint effort to recognize and protect this remarkable resource.

We look forward to your favorable review of this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peggy Sloan", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Peggy Sloan  
Director of Planning & Development



**D.**

**Turners Falls Massacre:  
Reconciliation Ceremony  
and Agreement: May 19,  
2004**



In the spirit of peace, healing and understanding we come together on this date of May 19, 2004, to acknowledge the tragic events that took place on the shores of this river May 19, 1676 and thereby begin to put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest.

It is chronicled that in 1676, Narragansett Chief Sachem Canonchet, in the midst of war, organized the refugee villages for the women, children and elderly at the Falls. In his absence, they were attacked and hundreds were killed. In 1996, in the spirit of Canonchet, the Narragansett returned to the ancient land of their relatives, the Pocumtuck, to assist the protection of the ancient and war burials at Wissatinnewag. In recent weeks, the village of Turners Falls has requested of the Medicine Man of the Narragansett a ceremony of spirit healing and reconciliation. That request is honored here today.

For thousands of years, the area of and around the Great Falls was a place of peace where all were welcome. This area served as a focal point for diplomacy and exchange, particularly during the harvest of the shad and salmon migrations.

As we exchange gifts, ideas and good will today, we commit to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation, and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of the indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here.

Patricia Allen, Patricia Allen Allen Ross Allen Ross Patricia Pruitt Patricia L. Pruitt  
Chairperson  
Montague Board of Selectman

Monique Fordham – President Monique Fordham Howard Clark Howard Clark  
Friends of Wissatinnewag Friends of Wissatinnewag

Matthew "7th Hawks" Thomas  
Narragansett Chief Sachem  
Matthew Thomas

Narragansett Medicine Man  
Lloyd "Running Wolf" Wilcox  
Lloyd Wilcox









































































## **Board of Selectmen TOWN OF MONTAGUE**

**ONE AVENUE A  
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376  
TEL: (413) 863-3204  
FAX: (413) 863-3222**



**Fm:** Board of Selectmen

**To:** All Interested Parties

**Subject:** Reconciliation Day - A Sacred Ceremony In Recognition of the Great Loss of Life that Occurred at the Great Falls in 1676, and An Awareness of the Rich Culture of the Native American People Who Were Such an Important Part of Montague's Early History.

**Dear:**

The Montague Board of Selectmen would like to invite you to attend and observe an event that will be held at 6:00 P.M. on May 19, 2004 at the Riverfront Park in Turners Falls (see attached map) Reconciliation Day – an important date on the calendar of events being celebrated as part of the town's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary – is meant to be a time of peace, healing and understanding between the town and the Native American community, in recognition of the tragic events that occurred three hundred and twenty eight years ago (1676) at and near the "Great Falls".

The Falls Fight, as it was called, resulted in a great loss of life among Native Americans who were encamped by the Falls, for the purpose of reaping the abundant harvest of salmon and shad which once swelled the Connecticut River during the annual migration of anadromous fish.

In observance of this tragic event, Native American tribal and community leaders will sit together and share in a sacred ceremony of peace and reconciliation. This event will include a traditional pipe ceremony and an offering of sacred and healing words.

Reconciliation Day is also meant to foster within the community a broader understanding and awareness of the rich heritage of the native cultures that have long inhabited the area near the falls. The Riverside Archeological District encompasses an area that is widely recognized among archeologists as one of the most significant Native American habitations in New England. It is a site, the history of which goes back more than 10,000 years, an area where, for centuries, Native American, including the Mohawk, Abenaki, Narragansett, and local Pocumtuk tribes fished and lived in close harmony with the ecology of the Connecticut River. The Native Americans considered the Connecticut River a shared resource, one to which all of the tribes were entitled to equal rights and use and also responsibility to conserve. Today, at the Great Falls Discovery Center, we celebrate and strive to develop, among visitors, a greater understanding and awareness of the value of the Connecticut River as a resource, and in this respect are promoting and advancing those values that have long been an integral part of the Native culture.

Please join us in observing this important ceremony.



# Turners Falls set for reconciliation with Indians

By KAREN P. CHYNOWETH  
Recorder Staff

**TURNERS FALLS** — On May 19, 1676, a militia of 150 soldiers led by Capt. William Turner and Capt. Samuel Holyoke attacked a sleeping village of American Indians on the Gill side of what was then called Peskeompscut Falls.

According to a Greenfield history book by Francis M. Thompson, the natives were asleep after a large meal of fish and stolen cattle and had "carelessly" forgotten to post sentinels. He said the land was known for its bounty of fish and the British needed to take the land to feed villagers who were starving because of months of war.

According to amateur historian Joseph Graveline, documents written by traders, hunters and other men who had contact with the Indians at that time say the village was a safe haven for the women, children and elderly and the only people who could have protected them were encamped on

It's been something that's long overdue.

Frank Abbondanzio  
Montague town administrator

the other side of the river or downstream in other villages. He said the raid was a strategic psychological attack to demoralize the absent warriors battling the English in other villages. The land had been known as a place of peace, where natives never fought each other, but met to trade, to marry or to share the bountiful fish.

People had gathered there for centuries. It was considered a sacred place, and it made sense to put the defenseless there, Graveline said. There was no reason to post sentinels.

Both accounts agree that the

soldiers fired muskets directly into the quiet wigwams and massacred the villagers. Some of the villagers that escaped the initial shots tried to escape across the river but fell over the falls, others were shot or slashed with swords. Only one white soldier was killed, when he was accidentally shot by one of his own.

When the soldiers were done killing they began their retreat. They panicked and split their forces, which made them susceptible to attack by the warriors of other villages along the river.

See RECONCILE Page 7

About 39 white soldiers were killed, according to Thompson. He writes that it's unknown how many natives died, but some of the soldiers estimated 200.

On Wednesday, American Indian tribes and town officials will meet to heal the wounds of that battle, which happened more than 300 years ago.

"It's been something that's long overdue," said Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio. "With the 250th anniversary (of the town) it just seemed appropriate and some of it was just that the time was right. (We felt) some sort of statement was appropriate and this was a good time to make it."

Lloyd "Running Wolf" Wolcox, medicine man for the Narragansett tribe, will oversee a ceremony of healing between the two cultures. Starting at 1 p.m., a ceremonial fire will be lit and a peace pipe will be passed as he speaks ancient words of healing. The two groups will also exchange gifts that Abbondanzio said will be "appropriate for the ceremony."

The land was once shared by the people of the Pocumtuck Confederacy, the Narragansetts, the Nipmucs, the Wampanoag and the Wabanaki. Representatives from some of these tribes will attend the public ceremony along with members of local peace groups including the Traprock Peace Center in Deerfield, Peacemaker Circles International in Montague and the Buddhist Peace Pagoda.

Doug Harris, the deputy tribal historic preservation officer of the Narragansett Tribe, said the event will mark the beginning of a time of peace and reconciliation of "the loss of Indians and colonial lives that occurred as the result of what has been characterized as a massacre — women and children awakened in their sleep by guns and swords. The town of Turners Falls has acknowledged that it may well be time to turn that page and seek to find peace with the past."

His tribe's medicine man accepted that band of reconciliation and will do a ceremony of peace on that day.

"We come in the spirit of Canonchet," Harris said. "Canonchet was the Narragansett chief sachem. He was the chief sachem who set up the village at the falls back in 1676 and it was those refugee villages that were attacked by the Turners Militia. Canonchet had taken responsibility of protection of those refugees. We come in the spirit of Canonchet to acknowledge that we can enter into a period of growing peace, healing and reconciliation."

Abbondanzio hopes the meeting will be the beginning of a relationship and the town can work with the tribes as town officials mold Turners Falls into a cultural center. The University of Massachusetts recently received a grant to develop a plan to convert the old Cumberland Farms store into a cultural center, which is likely to include educational and cultural displays of the native cultures that fished and traded by the falls.

"I think the (Great Falls) Discovery Center does a wonderful job in terms of the environmental education piece in terms of the river. We see this as sort of complementing that effort," Abbondanzio said.

Graveline said it's appropriate that an ancient ceremony will be performed and ancient words will be spoken to cure such an ancient wound.

"It's been 328 years since the massacre. It's been a long time since the two cultures have been at odds with each other," Graveline said. "They are going to be going down a path that is not at odds with each other from that time on."



# Selectmen, <sup>Republican</sup> tribe agree to make peace

The massacre set the stage for later colonization, including the formation of Montague and the village of Turners Falls.

By **BETSY CALVERT**  
ecalvert@repub.com

**MONTAGUE** - Selectmen will smoke a peace pipe and exchange gifts today with the modern day medicine man of the Narragansett Indian Tribe at a reconciliation ceremony to heal wounds from 328 years ago.

Reconciliation Day will be part of the town's celebration of its 250th anniversary this year. Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he believes May 19, 1676 is an important day in the history of the area now called Montague, and a day to be observed.

Ceremonies will run 1-3 p.m. off First Street along the Connecticut River.

Today is the anniversary of what had long been called "Turners Fight," but is now considered more of a massacre. This was the day that Capt. William Turner and Capt. Samuel Holyoke led a militia that attacked a village of American Indians from several tribes, sleeping on the banks of the Connecticut River in what is now Gill.

An estimated 200 Indians died, mostly women and children. Indians from the Narragansett, Nipmuc, Pocumtuck, and Wobenaki tribes had gath-

ered as they did for centuries at the historic fishing site above Great Falls. Many of the warriors had left to retrieve corn seed from the east, as American Indians tell it today, Abbondanzio said.

Other versions of the history, now considered biased, were recorded in the late 1800s. Capt. Turner died that day from wounds he received from Indians as he retreated. His actions helped turn the tide for colonization of the area within the next century. The local village and the once majestic falls were named Turners Falls, and the Englishman's name became part of every day life.

"There's a lot of different purposes we're trying to accomplish," Abbondanzio said of Reconciliation Day. "We're trying to acknowledge the event, and place it in the context of world peace."

Abbondanzio said he also hopes greater knowledge of American Indian heritage at this location will encourage people to take better care of the natural resources here, and to pass on the history of indigenous people.

The ceremony will be led by the Rhode Island tribe's medicine man, as is the tradition, said Monique Fordham, director of the Greenfield-based Friends of the Wissatinawag, which helped facilitate the event.

Parts of the ceremony will be in the native language, Abbondanzio said, but not in native dress.

"I think everybody wants to keep it as simple and as meaningful as possible," he said.



Brad Peters and Jan Ross of Erving, O. donated two albums to the town of Montague for the Reconciliation Day ceremony in Turners Falls. One of the albums will be given by the town during the ceremony.



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PHOTO BY BRAD PETERS

Brad Peters and Jan Ross of Erving, on behalf of their business, PR Solutions, donated two albums to the town of Montague documenting the May 19th 2004 Reconciliation Day ceremony in Turners Falls. The ceremony resulted in a "Document of Cooperation and Peace between the Narragansetts and the Town of Montague." One of the albums will be given by the town to the Narragansetts who participated in the ceremony pictured above.



# Ceremony honors healing for whites, Indians

By KAREN P. CHYNOWETH  
Recorder Staff

**TURNERS FALLS** — It's been more than 300 years since the town's namesake, Capt. William Turner, led a band of 150 militiamen by the Great Falls to attack a sleeping camp of American Indians.

Many people died that night on both sides of the skirmish — including Turner — but town officials hope the restless spirits some say lingered from the massacre are at peace now.

About 80 people attended a reconciliation ceremony Wednesday, which was the 328th anniversary of the attack. A peace pipe was passed and officials signed an agreement between the town and the Narragansett tribe to recognize the tragedy and put the event to rest so



Recorder/Peter MacDonald

Chief medicine man of the Narragansett Indian tribe Lloyd G. "Running Wolf" Wilcox shares a peace pipe, or Calumet, with newly elected Montague Selectman Patricia Pruitt, left, Selectman Allen Ross and Selectmen's Chairman Patricia Allen during a reconciliation ceremony at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

the two cultures can move forward in peace.

"I think it's excellent," said Selectmen's Chairman Patricia Allen. "We've been told that it goes beyond the circles here and people do appreciate the efforts of what we are trying to do."

Newly elected Selectman Patricia Pruitt called the event important and significant.

"The way everything in the world

is at strife, a little moment of peace is not to be ignored," Pruitt said.

Monique Fordham, president of the Friends of Wissatinnewag, a local group that advocates for American Indian issues, said the cleansing was a big step towards building good relations between the town and the American Indian culture.

"Our organization is really happy at the initiative that Turners Falls took to instigate the event. We think it's a really positive step forward," Fordham said. "It's showing a lot of respect for the native American people and what happened (by the falls). It's about healing and moving forward."

The Friends of Wissatinnewag provided the tobacco for the ceremony.

Narragansett Medicine Man Lloyd "Running Wolf" Wilcox started the ceremony by shaking a rattle and a deer antler close to the ground in a circle around the fire to cleanse it as his wife played a drum in a heartbeat rhythm. Then he walked in a counter-clockwise circle tossing bits of tobacco into the fire in four spots around the circle representing the four directions — north, east, south and west. He then gave tobacco to the other American Indians participating in the ceremony who also tossed it in the fire four times.

The fire smoldered and sweet tobacco smoke wafted around the circle each time the breeze switched directions. The tobacco smoke is believed to carry the message of peace up to the Great Creator.

The medicine man passed the pipe to the selectmen. Administrator Francis Wilcox, who held his hands together, receiving Catholic tobacco in and the 20 Indians present were the same.

Wilcox smoked a pipe and touched the pipe to the hearts of the ceremony. The men touched the middle of both hands.

When the ceremony crowd was invited boughs around the d

Wilcox was happy money and hopes the good on its promise with the Indian tr

At some point, y ing 'you' and 'them' us," Wilcox said.

Anemone Mars, of the tribe's medicine chosen to say the prayer her grandmother.

Doug Harris, de toric preservation Narragansett. Tri walked along the C when she first arriv She told him that a snapping turtle clim river toward her. woman's medicine, o gy, comes from the t

"She said, 'look here.' It was just at this was right," Har

At the beginning the sky was gray a "sun dog," which is halo around the sun. gists say is a harbi the rain didn't com breeze that twirled maple seeds around spectators swept the the end of the cerem

"It was good; it Mars she said, as s eyes and contempla heavy shawl off. "V about this, that it beings here were pl happened, the place and take on another did."

The town gave th an antique fly fishb the now-closed Mor Reel shop in Montag town officials had h avid fly fisherman.

"I saw him smile doesn't do that m said. "He was please

The town also ga man's wife, Abig Water" Wilcox, a hai bowl and gave Mars





Recorder/Peter MacDonald

man of the Narragansett Indian tribe Lloyd G. Wilcox shares a peace pipe, or Calumet, with newly elected Selectman Patricia Pruitt, left, Selectman Allen Fordham, right, and Chairman Patricia Allen during a reconciliation ceremony in Turners Falls.

move forward

excellent," said Selectman Patricia Pruitt. "It goes to show that we are here and people are working on what we need to do."

Selectman Patricia Pruitt said the event is important

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The fire smoldered and sweet tobacco smoke wafted around the circle each time the breeze switched directions. The tobacco smoke is believed to carry the message of peace up to the Great Creator.

The medicine man gave tobacco to the selectmen and to Town Administrator Frank Abbondazio, who held his hands out as if he were receiving Catholic Communion — one hand inside the other.

The town officials threw the tobacco in and the 20 or so American Indians present were invited to do the same.

Wilcox smoked a long-stemmed pipe and touched the tip of the stem to the hearts of the women in the ceremony. The men in the ceremony touched the middle of the stem with both hands.

When the ceremony ended, the crowd was invited to lay cedar boughs around the dead fire.

Wilcox was happy with the ceremony and hopes the town makes good on its promise to improve ties with the Indian tribes that once fished and thrived on the land.

"At some point, we will stop saying 'you' and 'them' and start saying 'us,'" Wilcox said.

Anemone Mars, granddaughter of the tribe's medicine woman, was chosen to say the prayer in place of her grandmother.

Doug Harris, deputy tribal historic preservation officer for the Narragansett Tribe, said Mars walked along the Connecticut River when she first arrived at the park. She told him that a steel-gray baby snapping turtle climbed out of the river toward her. The medicine woman's medicine, or spiritual energy, comes from the turtle.

"She said, 'look, grandmother is here.' It was just another sign that this was right," Harris said.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the sky was gray and there was a "sun dog," which is a rainbow-like halo around the sun that meteorologists say is a harbinger rain. But the rain didn't come and the cool breeze that twirled helicopter-like maple seeds around the circle of spectators swept the clouds away by the end of the ceremony.

"It was good; it's cleared up," Mars she said, as she squinted her eyes and contemplated taking her heavy shawl off. "We were talking about this, that if the invisible beings here were pleased with what happened, the place would clear up and take on another tone — and it did."

The town gave the medicine man an antique fly fishing rod made in the now-closed Montague Rod and Reel shop in Montague City because town officials had heard he was an avid fly fisherman.

"I saw him smile real big, and he doesn't do that much," Anemone said. "He was pleased."

The town also gave the medicine man's wife, Abigail "Laughing Water" Wilcox, a hand-made wooden bowl and gave Mars some jewelry.

The tribe gave the selectmen and town administrator each a blue and white necklace made of three mollusk shells and gave the town a blue and white necklace made of one large shell for display.

Fordham said the tobacco provided was a native species the Friends of Wissatinnewag are trying to preserve.

The tribe also grows native squash, corn and beans in a traditional mound called the "three sisters." The squash provides ground cover to hold moisture, the corn provides the stalk for the beans, which put nitrogen in the ground.

Fordham hopes the tribe will start working with the town to give educational seminars about this and

other aspects of American Indian culture.

Although several tribes used the lands around what was once known as the Peskeompskut (Great Falls) and members of different tribes were killed in the late night hours of May 19, 1876, the reconciliation contract was only between the Narragansett tribe out of Rhode Island and the town. Some suggested that the town should sign agreements with other tribes as well. Allen said it was something that would be considered.

You can reach Karen P. Chynoweth at: kchynoweth@record.com or (413) 772-0261 Ext. 257



## RECONCILIATION CEREMONY



Staff photo by BOB STERN

Montague selectmen Patricia L. Pruitt, left, Allen Ross and Patricia A. Allen, and Frank Abbondanzio, town administrator, watch as Lloyd G. Running Wolf Wilcox of Charlestown, R.I., chief medicine man for the Narragansett Tribe, performs part of a reconciliation ceremony near the banks of the Connecticut River in the Turners Falls section of Montague yesterday afternoon.

## Indians honored with tribal ritual

Participants dropped crushed tobacco into the fire from the four points of the compass.

By BETSY CALVERT  
ecalvert@repub.com

MONTAGUE — A drum beat softly and ceremonial tobacco smoke drifted up into the atmosphere yesterday at a reconciliation ceremony held to honor American Indians who died across the river 328 years ago at the hands of English colonists.

"Great Spirit . . . We come before you today in humility," said Narragansett Indian Anemone Mars of the Rhode Island tribe. A rare young speaker of Narragansett, she spoke first in the native language, and then trans-

lated to English. "We ask that you come before us today and offer healing in a sorrowful place . . . Three hundred and twenty eight years ago, the Narragansett people were on this land . . . Their spirits have remained in a state of limbo for centuries — for a period of 121 thousand days."

About 100 people from the region gathered for the afternoon ceremony on the banks of the Connecticut River, just above what was once called Great Falls, and is now Turners Falls dam. Four Narragansetts came

to conduct the ceremony at the request of town officials and other local citizens. Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the idea came in part as a result of the town celebrating its 250th anniversary this year.

Mars' great uncle, Lloyd G. Running Wolf Wilcox of Charlestown, R.I., is the Narragansett's chief medicine man. As required by tradition, he conducted the ritual peace pipe ceremony, with the roar of the dam in the background, just as the roar of Great Falls is believed to have muffled the sound of the colonial soldiers the morning of the attack.

The actual site where a colonial militia killed some 200 Indi-

ans one morning, mostly women and children, is believed to have been across the river in what is now Gill. The town of Montague, however, bears the name of the attacker in its main village, Turners Falls. The attack was led by Capt. Samuel Holyoke and Capt. William Turner, who was himself killed by Indians that day.

Wilcox, 71, laid a ceremonial fire with piles of birch bark and kindling along with cedar boughs. Wilcox's wife, Alberta, dressed in a deerskin dress, beat a hand drum throughout the ceremony and shook a handmade turtle rattle.





Staff photo by BOB STERN

and Patricia A. Allen, and Frank Abbondanzio, town of Charlestown, R.I., chief medicine man for the Narragansett the banks of the Connecticut River in the Turners Falls

## with tribal ritual

to conduct the ceremony at the request of town officials and other local citizens. Town Administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the idea came in part as a result of the town celebrating its 250th anniversary this year.

Mars' great uncle, Lloyd G. Running Wolf Wilcox of Charlestown, R.I., is the Narragansett's chief medicine man. As required by tradition, he conducted the ritual peace pipe ceremony, with the roar of the dam in the background, just as the roar of Great Falls is believed to have muffled the sound of the colonial soldiers the morning of the attack.

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Continued from Page B1

Wilcox asked all Narragansett Indians present, and later all Indians, to participate by dropping pieces of home-grown tobacco mixed with other herbs into the fire from each of the four points of the compass. The town's three selectmen, plus Abbondanzio, did the same. Wilcox also lit the calumet, or peace pipe, made by his grandfather. He was the only one to actually smoke. According to tradition, he touched the pipe to the shoulder of the women in the ceremony, and the men touched the pipe themselves.

Chairman of Selectmen Patricia A. Allen spoke, as the drum beat.

"The time has really come for us to put to rest, if we can, what happened in 1676," she said. "There are much larger issues that we need to address."

The town and the Narragansett exchanged gifts, with Wilcox letting out a quick, "Wow," when he received a coveted antique bamboo fly fishing rod made at Turners Falls Rod &

Reel in the 1940s.

Then, Wilcox and selectmen signed an agreement on parchment, that he said each should keep forever.

"I thought it was very meaningful, poignant, emotional and therapeutic," Allen said after the ceremony, when everyone was eating salmon donated by Foster's Supermarket in Greenfield and cooked locally by The Night Kitchen.

"I find it kind of moving, more than kind of moving," said Selectman Allen Ross, who said his spiritual moments are on the river.

Asked if he had done other reconciliation ceremonies, Wilcox said, "Not in this manner, and not perhaps, of this weight."

Explaining the significance of the tobacco, he said, "The wishes and the prayers that we have follow the smoke into the ether to perhaps be heard... Perhaps, our sincerity will be tested."

Will the ceremony help?

"Who the hell knows. Time will tell. It took 300 years to get this far," he said.

Please see *Tribes*, Page B3



# A Day of Peace

*Narragansett Medicine Man Lloyd Running Wolf Wilcox raises the sacred pipe to the four directions during Wednesday's Reconciliation Day Ceremony on the banks of the Connecticut River*

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GREAT FALLS** - It's been 328 years, but the town of Montague and the Narragansett tribe have finally buried the hatchet. At a sunsplashed ceremony Wednesday on the banks of the Connecticut River, Narragansett medicine man Lloyd Running Wolf Wilcox lit the sacred fire in a fire pit made from stones brought from the Gill side, the Turners side, and the Greenfield side of the river. To the sound of a beating drum, Wilcox shook a deer antler rattle, offered sacred tobacco, and performed an ancient pipe ceremony, ending by touching the chairperson of the Montague selectboard, Patricia Allen, above her heart with the

stem of the pipe. "It's been hundreds of years since we did this sort of ceremony," said Doug Harris, deputy tribal historic preservation officer for the Narragansetts, who attended the Reconciliation Day event.

Anemone Mars, the granddaughter of the tribe's Medicine Woman, Ella Sekatau, (who was recovering from surgery in Rhode Island and could not be present) spoke sacred words of peace and healing in the Narragansett language before translating them into English for more than a hundred assembled

witnesses, who formed a wide outer circle surrounding the town officials and Native representatives.

While the Medicine

Man's wife, Alberta Laughing Waters Wilcox beat the drum and shook the rattle, Mars stepped close to the fire, faced the

see **PEACE** pg 10.



J. PARZYCH PHOTO



PHOTO J. PARZYCH

Lloyd Running Wolf Wilcox offers the Sacred Pipe to each member of the



continued from pg 1

three members of the Montague selectboard and the town administrator, and in a clear voice said, "Great Spirit, Creator, Giver of Life, Creator of All Wonderful Things, we come before you today. We ask that you look down upon us, and ask that you help us to offer healing for a sorrowful place. We are thankful for our past, we are thankful for our present, we are thankful for our future. At this time we ask that you look down upon us, Grandfather, Great Spirit, Creator, and bless this place and the spirits here and ask that you assist them in finding rest and peace and love. 328 years ago Narragansett people were massacred on this land. Their spirits have remained in a space of limbo and without rest for centuries, for over 121,000 days, never at peace. At this time, we come here, we ask the Creator to help us restore a level of healing to this place. We are thankful for all you have given to us. We are thankful for all things, for everyone, for all the people who are gathered here to help participate in this ceremony. Let these words stand." Her words were punctuated by a resounding cry from nearly two dozen local Native Americans gathered in a half-circle behind her.

Over the winter, as Montague prepared for its 250th anniversary celebration, the selectboard proposed the idea of holding a healing ceremony, or Reconciliation Day, with representatives of local tribes, on the anniversary of the massacre which took place across the river on the Gill shore in 1676, while the hostilities of King Philip's War still blazed across the colonies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

In that year, on May 19th, as the memorial stone tells the tale, "Captain William Turner with 145 men surprised and destroyed over 300 Indians encamped at this place." Among them were many from the Narragansett tribe, who had sought refuge with the local Pocumtuck by the falls at

Peskeomskut. This area, according to the archeological record one of the longest continuously inhabited villages in the Northeast, had for thousands of years been considered a joint-use area among the Native tribes, a place of peace where the elders, women and children would be safe from the ravages of war. In the surprise raid, William Turner (after whom our village is named) lost only one of his men, felled by a bullet from another settler's musket. It was Captain Samuel Holyoke (after whom a nearby city was later named) who apparently set the pattern for indiscriminate slaughter that day, discovering some old persons and children seeking refuge in the rocks by the river and slaying five of them with his sword.

Abenaki Indians from Vermont, whose nation lost many at the falls that day, were present at Wednesday's healing ceremony, as were members of the Cherokee, Chippewa, Lenape and other tribes. Joe Graveline, a resident of Northfield who is part Cherokee, said many of the local Native Americans felt a mixture of sadness and joy at the Reconciliation Day event. "A lot of people kept glancing back across the river," said Graveline. "I could feel there had been a lot of pain, and it took a lot of energy for people to look at that under the open sky and say, 'Enough is enough.'"

As maple seed pods twirled down in soft, green helixes and passing motorists yelled their best war whoop imitations, Patricia Allen read a statement for the town. "Recognizing the significance of the tremendous loss (of life that occurred) and realizing this is still a recurring pattern in the world of today, we must place these events into a context that will increase our ability to promote the cause of peace, tolerance, and understanding in our world today - a universal theme that is crucial to the future health and preservation of our planet and our peoples," she said, in part. Her statement talked about the

delicate ecological balance of the river and its environs, pledged to increase cooperation for historic preservation efforts to protect cultural resources, and promised to promote better understanding and the free exchange of ideas between Native people and the town to create a better future the generations to come.

Gifts were exchanged between the Narragansetts and the Montague town officials. Wilcox gave each member of the selectboard and the town administrator necklaces made from quahog shell wampum. On behalf of the town, Abbondanzio brought forward a number of presents, (inadvertently carried in a n empty copier paper carton under the brand name Great White) including bean seeds, tobacco, corn, Montague 250th mugs, Montague Library Moose book bags, books about local geology by GCC professor Richard Little, and a fly-rod manufactured in Montague, which Abbondanzio presented to Wilcox. Learning what that wrapped parcel contained, the Medicine Man seemed pleased, and asked, "Is this a personal gift?" When Abbondanzio assured him that it was, Wilcox said, "Wow!"

Allen then read aloud a document of cooperation and peace (see sidebar), which all parties signed. The ceremony concluded with Wilcox offering all present the opportunity to lay cedar boughs from Rhode Island around the fire pit.

"Cedar is a purifier," Graveline explained. "And the birch - which came from the Friends of Wissatinnewag site on the Greenfield side of the river to make up the fire - is a tree of peace." Graveline said he was humbled to see the number of people who stepped up to the fire to make offerings of cedar. "A number of the Native people commented they were honored to have this kind of coming together here, while the rest of the world was falling apart." Graveline said he hoped the spirit of the gathering could have a beneficial affect, on some level, to the wider world.



## Cooperation and Peace

### s and the Town of Montague

of the Narragansett a ceremony of spirit healing and reconciliation. That request is honored here today.

For thousands of years, the area of and around the Great Falls was a place of peace where all were welcome. This area served as a focal point for diplomacy and exchange, particularly during the harvest of the shad and salmon migrations.

As we exchange gifts, ideas and good will today, we commit to a future that will continue the exchange of actions to promote understanding about and between the cultures, increase mutual vigilance for historic preservation, and deepen our appreciation for the rich heritage of indigenous peoples of our region and all who have found respite, sanctuary and welcome here.

## Reconciliation Elegy

For the Narragansett People and the People of Montague

May 19th, 2004

Today we gather at the river  
Our place in the living NOW  
Rolling minute into hour  
Hour into centuries. Our home  
is made of history.

Today around the fire  
Narragansetts and Montaguans gather  
On the bank of the shining river  
Along its green and fragile edge  
Its surface sometimes calm and blue  
A second sky for us to view, or a  
Momentary grove of trees  
Rippling in a water breeze.

Some say they swim in dawn's early fog  
Forms still fishing in the river

Some say they see at sunset a red stain  
On the water, on rocks flanking the river

In our mind's eye, Pocumtucks, Capt. Turner  
And his men live on  
Through 3 hundred, 26 years of days  
(Memory towards Death in this small way.)  
And memory binds us to this day.

Captain Turner and his men  
In full heal for self-protection  
Slew Pocumtucks young and old  
And in turn were slain.

Narragansetts speak their part  
We speak ours. Both from this vantage  
Know a flow of blood is not  
The river to the future.

The earth sustains us one and all,  
And life is sweet, but short.

We are searching for the word  
Lost in the swirling tumbling Falls.

We are searching for the gestures  
To heal and reconcile us all.

Part prayer, part longing for grief  
To cease. Part recognition of our shared  
Estate. The word repeated paves the way  
The word becomes road  
And we go in peace.

Patricia Poett



## A Document of Cooperation and Peace

between the Narragansetts and the Town of Montague

In the spirit of peace, healing and understanding we come together on this date of May 19th, 2004, to acknowledge the tragic events that took place on the shores of this river May 19th, 1676 and thereby begin to put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest.

It is chronicled that in 1676, Narragansett Chief Sachem Canonchet, in the midst of war, organized the refugee villages for the women, children, and elderly at the Falls. In his absence, they were attacked and hundreds were killed. In 1996, in the spirit of Canonchet, the Narragansett returned to the ancient land of their relatives, the Pocumtuck, to assist the protection of the ancient and war burials at Wissaminnewag. In recent weeks, the village of Turners Falls has requested of the Medicine Man

of the Narragansett a ceremony of spirit healing and reconciliation. That request is honored here today.

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Patricia Poeth



# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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## Reconciliation Day

May 19th, 2 p.m. Riverfront Park Turners Falls

*In recognition of the great loss of life that occurred at the Great Falls in 1676, and in Awareness of the rich culture of the Native American people who were such an important part of Montague's history.*

The Montague Board of Selectmen would like to invite you to attend and observe an event that will be held at 2 p.m. on May 19th, at the Riverfront Park in Turners Falls. Reconciliation Day - an important date on the calendar of events being celebrated as part of the town's 250th anniversary - is meant to be a time of peace, healing and understanding between the town and the Native American community, in recognition of the tragic events that occurred three hundred and twenty eight years ago (1676) at and near the Great Falls at Peskeompskut. The Falls Fight, as it came to be called, resulted in a great loss of life among Native Americans who were camped by the falls for the purpose of reaping the abundant harvest of salmon and shad which once swelled the Connecticut River during the annual migration of anadromous fish.

In observance of this tragic event, Native American tribal and community leaders will sit together and share in a sacred ceremony of peace and reconciliation. This event will include a traditional pipe ceremony and an

offering of sacred and healing words.

Reconciliation Day is also meant to foster within the community a broader understanding and awareness of the rich heritage of the native cultures that have long inhabited the area near the falls. The Riverside Archeological District encompasses an area that is widely recognized among archeologists as one of the most significant Native American habitations in New England. It is a site the history of which goes back more than 10,000 years, an area where, for centuries, Native Americans, including the Mohawk, Abenaki, Narragansett, and local Pocumtuck tribes fished and lived in close harmony with the ecology of the Connecticut River. The Native Americans considered the Connecticut River a shared resource, one to which all of the tribes were entitled to equal rights and use and also responsibility to conserve. Today, at the Great Falls Discovery Center, we celebrate and strive to develop, among visitors, a greater understanding and awareness of the value of the Connecticut River as a resource, and in this respect are promoting and advancing those values that have long been an integral part of the Native culture.

Please join us in observing this important ceremony.

- the Montague Selectboard



In the spirit of peace, healing and understanding we come together on this date of May 19, 2004, to acknowledge the tragic events that took place on the shores of this river May 19, 1676 and thereby begin to put the traumatic echoes of the past to rest.

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Patricia Allen, Patricia Allen Allen Ross Allen Ross Patricia Pruitt Patricia L. Pruitt  
Chairperson  
Montague Board of Selectman

Monique Fordham – President Monique Fordham Howard Clark Howard Clark  
Friends of Wissatinnewag Friends of Wissatinnewag

Matthew "7th Hawks" Thomas  
Narragansett Chief Sachem  
Matthew Thomas

Narragansett Medicine Man  
Lloyd "Running Wolf" Wilcox  
Lloyd Wilcox



## Reconciliation Day 19 May 2004 – Montague, MA

### Why are we here today?

As we come together to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town of Montague, we join in acknowledging our intersecting and intertwining personal histories, in appreciating our rich and varied cultural diversity, and in recognizing and protecting our natural heritage. Montague, particularly Turners Falls, has lived through some fine times but also through much emotional turmoil and stress over the last two hundred and fifty years. But its citizens are resilient, open-minded and generous-hearted - ready to embrace community and well-being for all. There is a collective sense that the time has come to gather with our native american partners to restore that peace and harmony to this special bend in the Connecticut River.

We come here today to **acknowledge** the tragic events that took place 328 years ago on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1676 when Capt William Turner and Capt. Samuel Holyoke attacked a sleeping village of native americans on the Gill side of the Great Falls, resulting over a period of hours in many, many innocent people losing their lives. This land which was once shared by the Pocumtuck Confederacy, the Narragansetts, the Nipmucs, the Wampanoag, and the Wabanaki, was known as a place of harmony and shelter where all could trade in peace, fish, and share in the bounty of the river. Recognizing the significance of that tremendous loss and realizing that this is still a recurring pattern in the world of today, we must place those events into a context that will increase our ability to promote the cause of peace, tolerance and understanding in our world today – a universal theme that is crucial to the future health and preservation of our planet and our peoples.

We come here today to **increase** our understanding and appreciation of the rich heritage of the native peoples who were the first inhabitants of the Great Falls and to promote historic preservation efforts that will ensure the protection of those important cultural resources. With a new project focusing on the cultural aspects of this area, we will focus on both the native american and regional artist contributions to the Great Falls area.

We come here today to **foster** an awareness of the importance of this special place – the Connecticut River and the Great Falls – to the indigenous peoples whose roots can be traced back as far as 12000 years ago. This river was first dammed in 1798 marking the end of the limitless salmon and shad runs to upstream spawning grounds and the beginning of the era of hydropower. Now two centuries later we have erected fish ladders in our efforts to return to a rightful balance of nature that was the heart of this place. We must redouble our efforts to increase our environmental awareness and respect for the land, its waters its animals and plants.

We come here today to **encourage** the wise stewardship of those resources – increasing our knowledge of the river's ecology through the support of such facilities as the Great Falls Discovery Center and the Conte Fish Lab. In this bend of the river and its environs we are blessed with an abundance of natural systems that can still maintain that delicate balance, and it is a delicate balance. With knowledge and care we can protect these resources for not only our generation but future generations as well.

Thus we come here today as partners as we **promote** better understanding and the free exchange of ideas and actions, which will allow us to work together in harmony and collaboration, with a firm dedication to create a better future for our children and their children.

On behalf of the citizens of Montague,



Patricia A. Allen

Chair, Montague Selectboard





## Board of Selectmen Town of Montague

1 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 xt. 108

FAX: (413) 863-3231

February 25, 2013

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. P-2485 and  
Turners Falls Project No. P-1889**

### **Information Request: Turners Fall Historic-Industrial District Historic Properties Management Plan**

Dear Secretary Bose,

The Montague Board of Selectmen would like you to consider the following Information Request for the Turners Falls Project integrated licensing process:

#### Goals and Objectives

*(1) Describe the goals and objectives of each study proposal and the information to be obtained;*

The goal of this study is to evaluate the project operation and maintenance effects on cultural and historic resources in the Historic-Industrial District of the Town of Montague within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Objectives in support of this goal include: (1) identification and review documentation of historic properties, structures, and bridges on property (2) Calculating net change of value and investment to historic mill properties in study area due to lack of access for pedestrian, vehicles, and utilities over historic bridges or owned by FirstLight. (3) evaluation of feasibility to re-establish or improve public pedestrian and/or vehicular connection over canal to historic canal district/ Connecticut River and (4) Identify the need for a management plan for the historic bridges owned by FirstLight.

*(2) If applicable, explain the relevant resource management goals of the agencies or Indian tribes with jurisdiction over the resource to be studied;*

N/A

*(3) If the requester is a not resource agency, explain any relevant public interest considerations in regard to the proposed study;*



The licensing of the project is a federal undertaking and a license issued by the Commission will permit activities that may "...cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist..."(36 CFR S 800.16(d)). The Commission must, therefore, comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, which requires the head of any federal department or independent agency having authority license an undertaking to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

#### Background and Existing Information

*(4) Describe existing information concerning the subject of the study proposal, and the need for additional information;*

The historic canal district in the Town of Montague is defined as linear strip of land located between the Power Canal and the Connecticut River bypass immediately below the Turners Falls Dam. The canal was initially built in 1867 and expanded in 1912 to provide hydro power to the mills. There are 5 current of former mill sites on this narrow wedge of land in the proposed study area. All five mill sites and their respective bridges over the canal are included on the Turners Falls Historic District (1982 designation). The mills total 536,984 square feet of buildable area over 9.96 acres. Only 186,247 square feet are currently occupied by the two mill sites adjacent to the Fifth Street Bridge (two-way vehicular). The mills are in various states of blight or underutilization. The mill sites are zoned for adaptive reuse and it is a community goal to revitalize this area in manner that protects the historic structures. Numerous reports cite physical access as the critical barrier to the redevelopment of this area and protection of the historic resources. FirstLight plays a crucial role in controlling access to the mill sites as the owner of the property on both the river and canal side of the mills and being the owner of a portion of the private canal access road and two historic access bridges to the sites. There has been over \$700,000 in public funds invested in the mill sites in effort to revitalize this derelict area. One historic mill site, The Strathmore Mill Site (site 2) has been designated a priority development site by the State of Massachusetts, however a lack of legal and physical access across the canal has repeatedly thwarted the possibility for redevelopment. There are two important bridges over the canal that are owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company both were built by the Turners Falls Company (the predecessor to FirstLight) to provide access and infrastructure to the mills. The principle pedestrian access bridge is a truss bridge to the Strathmore Mill Complex from Canal Street. The bridge is listed on the Historic Register, is owned by FirstLight and has been closed for access since approximately 2004 due to lack of maintenance. The bridge is also the primary conduit for utilities for Southworth Paper Company, Swift River hydro Company, and the Strathmore Mill Complex. The Town in 2011 commissioned a study to investigate the costs and options for repair. FirstLight has indicated no plans to repair, reopen, or renovate the Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge. The IP bridge is located just below the headgates of the canal. This bridge is also listed on the Historic Register and owned by FirstLight. Access is limited to emergency vehicles. Pedestrians can enter the bridge from the Canalside Bike Path, however access is not clearly identifiable, nor does it connect to the mill sites.

*(5) Explain any nexus between project operations and effects (direct, indirect, and/or cumulative) on the resource to be studied, and how the study results would inform the development of license requirements;*



Project Operations, especially the control of access bridges over the canal have severely limited the viability of structures in the historic-industrial district. The two bridges owned by FirstLight are listed on the Federal Historic Register, but there serve an important functional purpose also to support localized economic development and access to the Connecticut River. If there would be an adverse effect on Historic Properties, an applicant-prepared Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP), developed in consultation with the Commission, the Town of Montague, and other interested parties would likely be necessary to avoid or mitigate effects. We recommend that FirstLight Hydro Generating Company file the HPMP with the license application. The implementation of the HPMP could then be required in any new license. Maintenance and operation of a publicly accessible bridge to the historic-industrial district would be a possible license requirement.

#### Proposed Methodology

*(6) Explain how any proposed study methodology (including any preferred data collection and analysis techniques, or objectively quantified information, and a schedule including appropriate filed season(s) and the duration) is consistent with generally accepted practice in the scientific community or, as appropriate, considers relevant tribal values and knowledge*

The mill properties (including specific references of the canal and bridges) have already been documented in the National Register of Historic Places 1982 designation. The Town has commissioned a title research report for two of the mill sites (sites one and two). The Town has also commissioned a site development assessment for the Strathmore Mill complex (2008) which examined access issues and scoped out a restored pedestrian footbridge to the Strathmore Mill. In 2011 the cost to rehab the Strathmore Pedestrian Footbridge from decades of deferred maintenance was estimated to be \$745,000 or \$848,000 to construct a new bridge.


An investigator could review existing studies and reports and develop a historic properties report. The report should be reviewed by the Town of Montague and the Mass Historic Preservation Office.

#### Level of Effort and Cost

*(7) Describe considerations of level of effort and cost, as applicable, and why any proposed alternative studies would not be sufficient to meet the stated information needs.*

The cost is estimated to be about \$6,000 (approximately 80 hours at \$75 per hour), depending on the intensity of the survey. This could be done by a firm with a historic preservation planner and a civil engineer. Most of the inventory work and cost estimations have been completed by the Town. The investigator would begin with a review of those documents.

Sincerely,



Christopher Boutwell  
Chair of the Montague Board of Selectmen



List of Enclosures in Appendix:

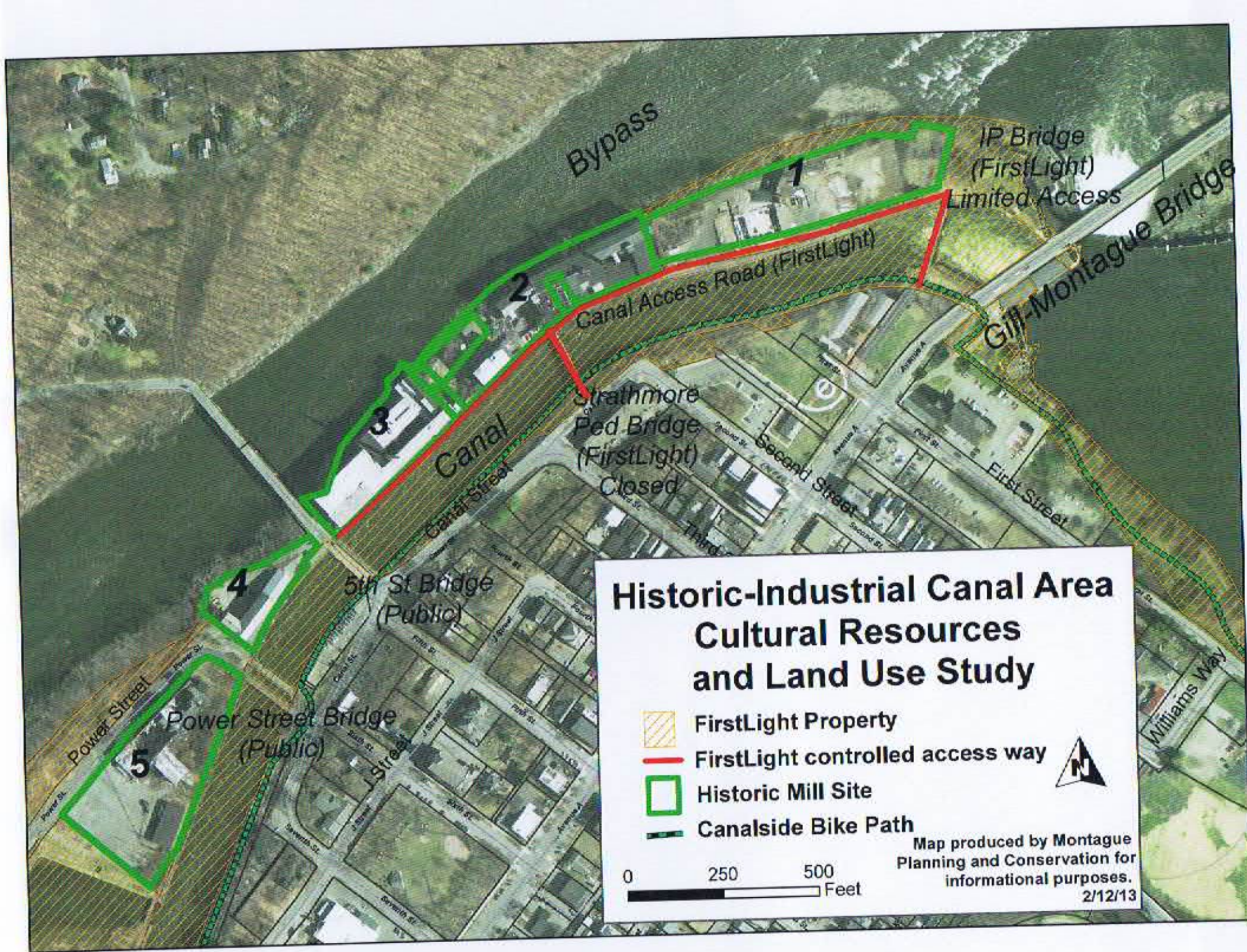
- A) Project Locus Map: Historic Industrial Canal Area Cultural Resources and Land Use Study with supporting photographs
- b) Correspondence and listing of building/structures regarding Turners Falls Historic District designated 1982 (excepts)
- C) Opinion of Cost to Rehabilitate/Modify Existing pedestrian Bridge- Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. 3/4/2011
- D) Opinion of Cost to Replace Existing pedestrian Bridge with New Bridge- Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. 3/4/2011
- E) Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge Inspection- NGS Rocky Hill 10/18/2004
- F) Evaluation of Existing Bridges over Power Canal-Fuss & O'Neill 4/25/2011 (excepts)
- G) Email correspondence regarding the lifespan of Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge- Peter Boyle, PE 4/6/2011
- H) Strathmore Mill Complex Redevelopment-Technical Assistance Panel Report- Urban Land Institute 2010. (excepts)



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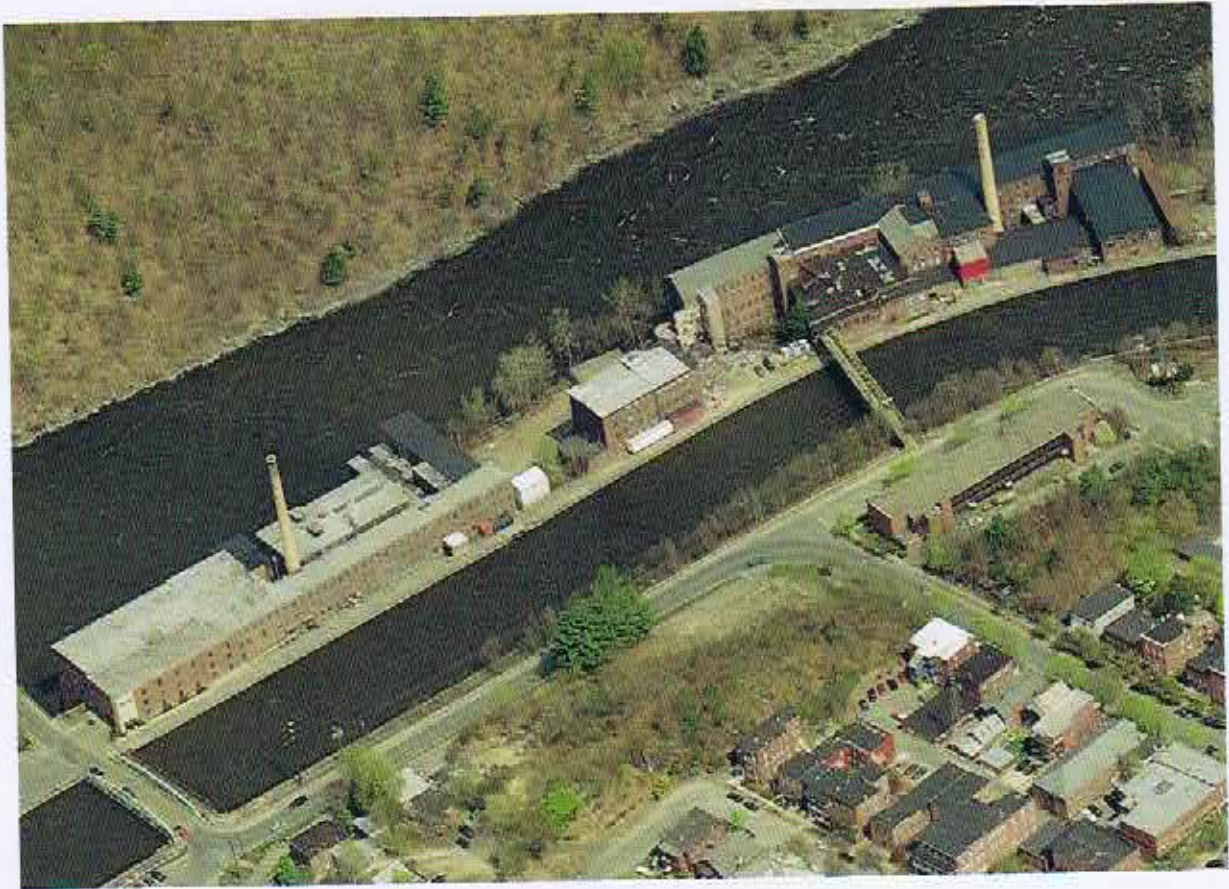
Project locus map with supporting photographs







Southworth Paper and Strathmore Mill



IP Bridge (Foot traffic and emergency vehicles only)

Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge (Closed by FirstLight)





## B

Correspondence and listing of building/  
structures in the Turners Falls Historic  
District designated 1982. (excepts)





**MASSACHUSETTS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02108  
617-727-8470

**MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY**  
Secretary of State

June 4, 1982

Linda Benson  
Montague Historical Commission  
Mayfield Rd.  
Montague, MA 01351

Dear Ms. Benson:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is delighted to inform you that Turner Falls Historic District has been accepted by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Enclosed is the official National Register certificate which you may wish to display in your property to make others aware of the National Register program and of preservation efforts in your community.

For your information, an explanation of the National Register of Historic Places is enclosed. If you have any questions or wish further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission's office at the above address.

We share with you a sense of pride that the Turner Falls Historic District has been so designated.

Sincerely,

Michael Joseph Connolly  
Secretary of State  
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Patricia L. Weslowski  
State Historic Preservation Officer

MJC/PLW/sac  
enclosures

cc: Local historical commission, local official.



RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET.

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP.

<u>Map No.</u>	<u>Assessor's Map No.</u>	<u>Building Address</u>	<u>Owner's Name and Address</u>
1	2 - 2	Power Canal	Western Mass. Electric Co. 174 Brush Hill Avenue West Springfield, 01889
2		6th St. Bridge	Town of Montague
3		5th St. Bridge	Town of Montague
4		5th St. Pedestrian Bridge	Town of Montague
5		Keith Mills Footbridge	Western Mass. Electric Co. 174 Brush Hill Avenue West Springfield 01889
6		Turners Falls-Gill Bridge	Commonwealth of Mass. Dept. of Public Works 100 Nashua Street Boston 02114
7	4 - 3	WMEC Gatehouse	Western Mass. Electric Co. 174 Brush Hill Avenue W. Springfield 01889
8	4 - 3	WMEC Dam	Western Mass. Electric Co.
9	2 - 3,4	Site of Montague Paper Co., Russell Cutlery-Keith Paper Mills	Western Mass. Electric Co.
10	2 - 1	Keith Paper Mills	Hammermill Mass. Paper Co. Broad Street Westfield 01085
11	3 - 2	Esleeck Mills	Esleeck Manufacturing Co. Canal Street Turners Falls 01376
12	3 - 1	Canal Street (Turners Falls Paper Co. Bldg)	Couture Bros. Inc. 187 Avenue A, Turners Falls 01376
13	3 - 27	Railroad Salvage (Turners Falls Cotton Mills)	William Vine 70 Britania Street, Meriden, CT



C

Opinion of Cost to Rehabilitate/Modify  
Existing pedestrian Bridge- Prepared by  
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. 3/4/2011



# FUSS & O'NEILL, INC.

78 Interstate Drive  
West Springfield, MA 02347

## EXHIBIT 1 - OPINION OF COST A (Revised 3-4-2011)

DATE PREPARED 3/05/2011 SHEET 1 OF 1

PROJECT: Montague Ped. Bridge  
LOCATION: Montague, MA  
DESCRIPTION: Rehabilitate/Modify Existing Pedestrian Bridge

BASIS:

PROJECT NO.:

ESTIMATOR: PDB

CHECKED BY:

Since Fuss & O'Neill has no control over the cost of labor, materials, equipment or services furnished by others, or over the Contractor(s) methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, Fuss & O'Neill's opinion of probable Total Project Costs and Construction Cost are made on the basis of Fuss & O'Neill's experience and qualifications and represent Fuss & O'Neill's best judgment as an experienced and qualified professional engineer, familiar with the construction industry; but Fuss & O'Neill cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual Total Project or Construction Costs will not vary from opinions of probable cost prepared by Fuss & O'Neill. If prior to the bidding or negotiating Phase the Owner wishes greater assurance as to Total Project or Construction Costs, the Owner shall employ an independent cost estimator.

ITEM NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT MEAS.	NO. UNITS	PER UNIT	TOTAL COST
1	Remove/Reset the existing main truss span - Includes the cost of mobilizing a crane twice to remove truss and again to reset truss, rigging, setting up staging area, and excavator to assist crane	L.S.	1.00	\$58,000.00	\$58,000.00
2	Mod. north framing/remove stairs/add floor framing - Includes the cost to demo the existing framing and stairs, supply material, equip. and labor to install new framing	L.S.	1.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
3	Remove/demo the south approach span and stairs - Includes the cost of excavator and labor, disposal of steel and misc. materials for steel pier bent, span, concrete pier and stairs	L.S.	1.00	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00
4	Repair the deteriorated steel framing components - Includes \$35,000 for the removal of paint & assumes half of horizontal gussets and 6 members need repair	L.S.	1.00	\$98,000.00	\$98,000.00
5	Strengthening the existing chords/gussets (To accommodate the dead load from a new roof) - Assumes only bottom gussets require strengthening	L.S.	1.00	\$206,000.00	\$206,000.00
6	Prepare and Paint truss - Assumes painting of truss will be done in staging area	L.S.	1.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
7	Add a new roof for existing and proposed trusses - Assumes wooden truss with metal roof	L.S.	1.00	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00
8	Replace decking on the existing truss - Includes removal and disposal of existing deck	L.S.	1.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
9	Replace existing south steel pier of main truss - Includes cost to demo existing steel abut., materials, and erection of new steel abut.	L.S.	1.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00
10	Mod. existing north abutment located at the building - Includes cost to demo existing steel abut., materials, and erection of new steel abut.	L.S.	1.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
11	Mod. existing south abutment for approach span - Includes selective demo of existing concrete abutment and modification for new approach span	L.S.	1.00	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
12	New 60' steel truss south approach span - Includes the cost of the bridge and delivery to the site	L.S.	1.00	\$116,000.00	\$116,000.00
13	Install a new 60' steel truss south approach span - Includes the cost of mobilizing a crane, rigging, setting up staging area, and excavator to assist crane	L.S.	1.00	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
14	Coordination/Temp. Relocation of Overhead Utilities	L.S.	1.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
<b>TOTAL COST (ROUNDED TO NEAREST \$1,000)</b>					<b>\$745,000</b>

### Notes:

The cost estimate provided above is a "Opinion of Cost". This estimate is a conceptual cost estimate made with limited engineering data. This cost estimate should be considered accurate to within plus 50% or minus 30%.

Plus 50% = \$1,117,500.00  
Minus 30% = \$521,500.00



D

Opinion of Cost to Replace Existing  
pedestrian Bridge- Prepared by Fuss &  
O'Neill, Inc. 3/4/2011



78 Interstate Drive  
West Springfield, MA 02347

Notes: The cost estimate provided above is a "Opinion of Cost". This estimate is a conceptual cost estimate made with limited engineering data. This cost estimate should be considered accurate to within plus 50% or minus 30%.

Plus 50% =	\$1,272,000.00
Minus 30% =	\$593,600.00



# E

Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge Inspection-  
Prepared by NGS Rocky Hill 10/18/2004



**TURNERS FALLS PROJECT**  
**STRATHMORE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE INSPECTION**

**DATE:** October 18, 2004

**INSPECTOR:** J. Whitfield (NGS Rocky Hill)

**BACKGROUND**

- The Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge (Originally the Keith Mills Foot Bridge) extends over the Turners Falls Canal from the Village of Turners Falls to the old Strathmore Paper Mill. The bridge was first constructed circa 1912 and is located approximately 1600 ft downstream from the Turners Falls Canal Gatehouse. The bridge consists of nine 17 foot long steel riveted truss panel sections that create an overall bridge span length of 153 feet. The top and bottom chords of the bridge, consisting of back-to-back angles, are framed together with angle cross bracing that is tied together via riveted steel gusset plates. The cross-section of the bridge yields a 9.5 foot clear walkway opening width and the height of each vertical truss panel section is approximately 16 feet. A 60 foot long steel framed walkway begins at the Canal Street side of the footbridge and connects to a steel/wood framed stair case that leads down to the first truss panel section of the footbridge. As you proceed to the paper mill side of the footbridge, a similar steel/wood framed stair case leads from the end of the bridge to the entrance area of the paper mill. The walking surfaces of the walkway, stairways, and bridge deck are all composed of 3 inch thick wood planking and there is a steel lattice railing system that traverses both sides of each component. There is an approximate  $\frac{1}{2}$ "/ft slope to the bridge deck that runs from the Canal Street side to the Strathmore Paper Mill side. The bridge deck is located approximately 25 ft above the normal canal water surface.





Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge (Originally the Keith Mills Foot Bridge)



## GENERAL ACCESS STATEMENT

- Due to the height of the structure and the location above a flowing canal, a thorough inspection of each structural component was not obtained at this time. However, a general visual inspection was made of areas that could be accessed from both sides of the canal, from the bridge deck, and from access to bottom cord steel framing via the temporary removal of several deck planks located on the bridge walking surface.

## INSPECTION COMPONENTS

### Walkway Entrance Structure / Canal Street Side of Bridge

- Access beneath the walkway structure was good since there is firm ground to walk on. Inspection of the structural steel in this area shows material loss in several structural members which are in need of replacement and/or repair:



Base of Vertical Support Member Showing Rust Through





Flanges of Walkway Support Beams Showing Corrosion

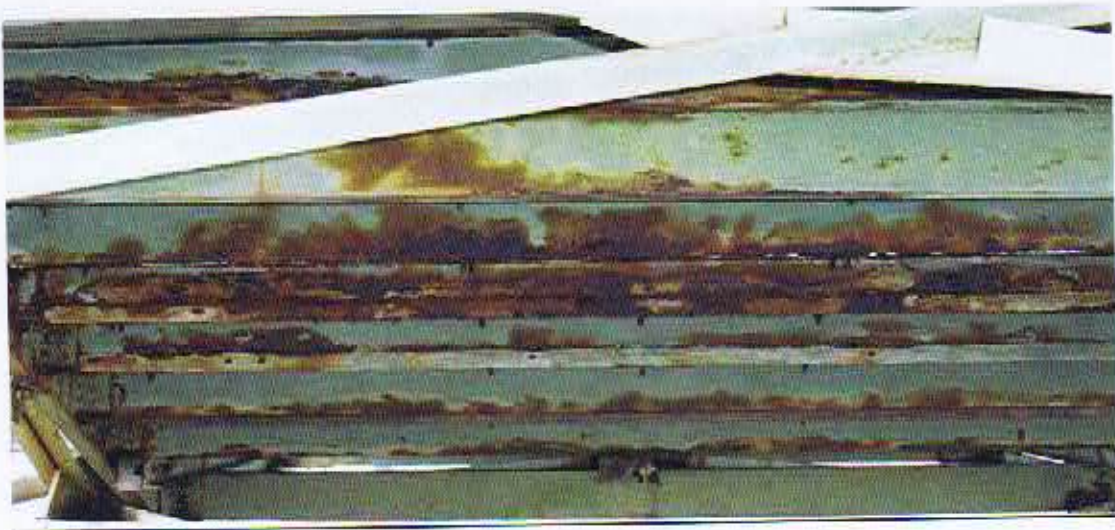


### Stairway Leading to Bridge / Canal Street Side

- Discussion with plant representatives indicated that salt was typically used on the bridge walking surfaces and especially in the areas of the stairways during the winter seasons to remove ice. As a result, the stairway structural steel members and connections have experienced corrosion and are in need of replacement:



Front View of Stairway Showing Corrosion



Rear View of Stairway Showing Corrosion



### Pedestrian Bridge Lower Chord Framing

- The lower chord framing of the Pedestrian Bridge shows areas of corrosion and is in need of repair and/or replacement:



Junction of Key Support Members Showing Corrosion





Gusset Connection Showing Corrosion & Material Loss

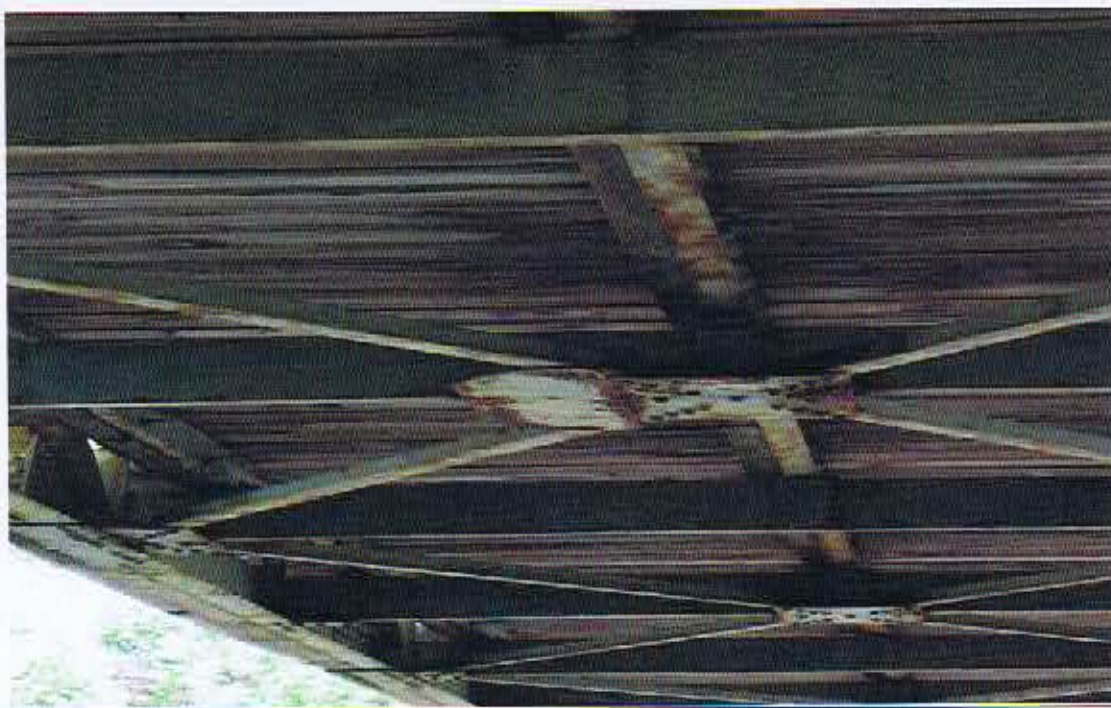


Gusset Connection Viewed from Above After Removing 1<sup>st</sup> Plank





Gusset Connection Viewed from Above After Removing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Plank



Lower Chord Framing in Need of Repair and/or Replacement





**Main Support Chord Steel in Need of Repair at Connection Point**



**Main Support Chord Steel and Miscellaneous Utility Piping**



### Pedestrian Bridge Top Chord Framing

- The top chord framing and side framing of the Pedestrian Bridge does not show the extent of corrosion that is present in the lower chord:



Typical View of Top Chord and Side Framing



### Stairway Leading to Strathmore Paper Mill

- The stairway leading to the paper mill has been exposed to the same salt conditions that the stairway on the opposite side of the bridge has experienced. Therefore, it is not surprising that it has similar corrosion damage:



Front View of Stairway Showing Corrosion Damage



### Bearing Support Steel and Concrete Abutments

- The concrete bridge abutments on both sides of the canal appear to be in stable condition, however a more detailed inspection is recommended during the next canal outage when the entire abutment on the Canal Street side of the canal is exposed. The main support columns and bearing supports have experienced corrosion in several areas.



Bridge Bearing Support on Strathmore Side of Canal



Bridge Bearing Support & Concrete Abutment on Strathmore Side of Canal





Corrosion Area below Bearing Support on Strathmore Side of Canal



Corrosion Area at Top of Main Support Column on Canal Street Side of Canal



## BRIDGE INSPECTION SUMMARY

- Based on the photographs presented in this inspection report, it is obvious that the stairway structures leading to the bridge on both the Canal Street Side and the Strathmore Paper Mill Side have suffered severe corrosion and are in need of replacement. This will involve replacement of the structural components that make up these structures.
- The lower chord framing has also suffered corrosion and will require a combination of repair and replacement of structural members on a case by case basis. The primary structural chords on either side of the main bridge span that carry the loading to the bridge piers do not show any significant deformation, however there is some localized corrosion in certain areas that needs to be repaired. The angle crosses bracing and gusset connections that tie the primary structural chords together have corrosion and in most cases will have to be replaced.
- The top chord framing is in relatively stable condition and is in need of general maintenance involving some form of corrosion removal in localized areas (sand blasting or a more environmentally friendly method) and painting. The bridge is reported to have been sand blasted in the past, preliminary inspection supports this report and initial testing indicates the bridge paint is not lead based.
- The bridge bearing supports and associated steel bracing on the Strathmore side of the bridge have corrosion in specific areas and will need repair and/or replacement as required. The main support columns on the Canal Street side of the canal have some corrosion and will need to be repaired. The concrete bridge abutment on the Strathmore side of the canal appears to be in a stable condition. The abutment on the Canal Street side of the dam needs to be further inspected during the next scheduled canal outage.
- The entire planking surface that covers the walkway, stairs, and bridge deck was replaced 20 years ago, however it will need replacement in the near future due to checking.



# F

Evaluation of Existing Bridges over Power  
Canal- prepared by Fuss & O'Neill 4/25/2011  
(excepts)





**FUSS & O'NEILL**

*Disciplines to Deliver*

April 25, 2011

Mr. Walter Ramsey  
Town Planner Conservation Agent  
Town of Turners Falls  
One Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

RE: Evaluation of Existing Bridges over Power Canal  
Fuss & O'Neill Reference No. 20080367.A30

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

On March 23, 2011, Fuss & O'Neill Inc. (Fuss & O'Neill) conducted a condition evaluation of the Fifth Street Bridge and the FirstLight Power Resources (FLPR) Head Gate Bridge over the power canal in Montague, MA. As part of the redevelopment of the former Strathmore Mill Complex, the Town needs to determine if the existing bridges are capable of supporting vehicular loads associated with the construction of a one-way loop road system through the northern portion of the mill complex.

The intent of our evaluation was to review existing documentation and to perform a visual evaluation of the bridges to identify any obvious signs of degradation that would impact the ability of either bridge to carry the proposed roadway and associated loads. Through conversations with the Town, FLPR and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) we have obtained documentation pertaining to the current condition of both bridges. A review of this documentation was made in order to determine the potential of using the bridges for access to the mill complex. This letter represents the findings of our research and bridge evaluations, and includes recommendations regarding the future use of the bridges for vehicular access to the mill complex.

#### **FLRP HEAD GATE BRIDGE**

The existing FLPR Bridge is a two span steel Modified Warren Pony Truss supporting a single 12 foot wide travel lane. The bridge is currently being used as a pedestrian footbridge and is not subject to vehicular traffic. The overall length the bridge is approximately 180 feet with approximate skews of 25 degrees at the west abutment, 30 degrees at the east abutment, and 15 degrees at the steel caisson pier bent. The eastern span has an out-to-out width of approximately 18'-11". The out-to-out width of the western span varies from approximately 18'-11" to 23'-8" due to the trusses being splayed outward from the pier bent

317 Iron Horse Way  
Suite 204  
Providence, RI  
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f (401) 861-3076

[www.FandO.com](http://www.FandO.com)

*Connecticut  
Massachusetts  
New York  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina*





Mr. Walter Ramsey

April 25, 2011

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to the west abutment. Each truss span consists of four interior truss panels and two end panels. The interior truss panels measure approximately 15'-6" in length. The length of the end panels varies due to the skew of the bridge.

The roadway supported by the bridge consists of steel pans filled with asphalt. The bridge rail consists of a timber rail system with horizontal top, intermediate and bottom rails, with a chain link fence inserted between the top and bottom rails. The curbing consists of horizontal timbers attached to each edge of the roadway with gaps between each timber for drainage.

Our evaluation found the bridge to be generally in fair condition overall with no areas of substantial concern from a structural standpoint. It should be noted however that our visual evaluation was limited due to the water surface elevation in the canal at the time of our site visit. Only the areas above the top of the floor beams were visible and accessible. The floor beams, underside of the bridge deck, stringers, inside faces of the bottom chords, abutments, and steel caisson pier bent were not visible. Our evaluation noted the following:

- Minor areas of section loss on vertical and diagonal truss members at connections with the bottom chord gusset plates
- Areas of section loss on the top of the floor beams along the edges of the horizontal gusset plates
- Timber railing is not suitable for vehicular traffic
  - A few loose posts were noted on the northern side of the bridge in the west span
- Paint is in poor condition overall
- Top surface of top chords at the ends of each span exhibits heavy surface rust with pitting up to 1/16"
- Asphalt wearing surface in the western span is in poor condition exhibiting multiple transverse cracks
- Joints between the bridge and the abutments are open
  - No bridge joint system in place
- The floorbeams have been supplemented with channel sections bolted to each side of the web

Although original construction documents are not available for this bridge, FLPR hired a consulting firm to conduct an inspection and load rating of the bridge. FLPR provided F&O with this report, the only documentation of the bridge known to exist, for our use and review. The inspection and load rating was conducted in September 2007 by TranSystems Corporation. The inspection was conducted when the canal was dewatered allowing full access to the bridge.





The TransSystem inspection and load rating report noted the following items:

- Severe corrosion and section loss throughout the underside of the steel pans which form the bottom of the deck
- Section loss noted along the top flanges of the stringers due to leakage through the deck
  - Up to a 1/8" loss of section in stringers 2 and 3 near the pier
- Stringers 6, 7 and 8 at the west abutment exhibit section loss along the web due to debris accumulation
  - Stringers 7 and 8 have section loss equivalent to approximately 50% of the original web thickness
- Stone masonry abutments exhibit voids and missing mortar (report indicated that this was not considered a significant condition)
- Steel caisson pier bent has broken bracing connections and missing bracing members
- 1/8" +/- gaps were noted under the bearing plate of stringers 3 and 4 at the west abutment
- 1/16" +/- gap noted under the bearing plate for stringer 2 at the east abutment

The report also indicated that repairs should be made in order to maintain the bridge and continue its safe use. The recommended repairs included the following items:

- Repair deteriorated areas within the webs of steel stringers 6, 7, and 8 located between the west abutment and Floorbeam No. 1
- Grout or shim the gaps under the stringer bearings at the abutments
  - S3 and S4 at west abutment and S2 at east abutment
- Fill voids at the base of the west abutment with concrete
- Clean and paint all structural steel with an approved bridge coating system
- Remove and replace the bridge deck with new steel deck pans and asphalt overlay
  - Utilize a waterproof membrane between lifts of asphalt
- Install new bridge rails suitable for use with vehicular traffic

The TransSystem report indicated that the approximate construction cost for implementing the above repairs was \$670,000 in 2007. The report also indicated that the lower cross bracing of the pier bent was being repaired by FLPR at the time of the inspection, and assumed that those repairs were completed prior to reopening the canal.





The TransSystem report provided a rating factor for each bridge component. The load rating analyzed the bridge using four different design vehicles. These included the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standard HS-20 (36 ton) design vehicle, a 37 ton ready-mix concrete truck, a 26 ton fire truck and a 13 ton sanitation department dump truck. A rating factor represents a percentage of the design vehicle load that the bridge, or component of the bridge, can support. A rating factor of 1.0 or greater indicates that the design vehicle used in the load rating can safely use the bridge.

Rating factors are provided for both Inventory and Operating levels. The Inventory Load Rating represents the capacity of the bridge on an ongoing basis while the Operating Load Rating represents the capacity of the bridge on a limited use basis. Therefore the Operating Load Rating Factor for a given design vehicle will be greater than the Inventory Load Rating Factor for the same vehicle.

The HS-20 design vehicle and the concrete truck produced the lowest rating factors. The Inventory and Operating rating factors of all bridge components for the fire truck and sanitation dump truck were above 1.0 for both the as-built and as-inspected conditions. A summary of the limiting rating factors for the HS-20 design vehicle and the concrete truck are provided below for reference.

Component	HS20 (36 Ton)		Concrete Truck (37 Ton)	
	Inventory	Operating	Inventory	Operating
<b>Stringers (As Inspected)</b> (S7, Span 1 Controls)	0.56 (20.2 Tons)	0.93 (33.5 tons)	0.55 (20.4 Tons)	0.91 (33.7 Tons)
<b>Stringers (As Built)</b>	0.97 (34.9 Tons)	1.62 (58.3 Tons)	0.92 (34.0 Tons)	1.53 (56.6 Tons)
<b>Floorbeams</b> (As-Built)	1.04 (37.4 Tons)	1.73 (62.3 Tons)	0.91 (33.7 Tons)	1.52 (56.2 Tons)
<b>Truss Components</b> (Diagonals Control)	0.72 (25.9 Tons)	1.02 (36.7 Tons)	0.74 (27.4 Tons)	1.02 (37.7 Tons)

**Table No. 1 – Rating Factor Summary**

The summary table indicates that in its as-inspected condition the bridge was capable of supporting a HS-20 design vehicle or concrete truck only on an occasional basis. The Inventory level rating factor of 0.56 indicates that the bridge can safely carry vehicles up to 20 tons on a continuous basis. The components with the lowest rating factors were the stringers in the west span at the west abutment. Communication with FLPR personnel indicated that these deteriorated stringers have been replaced, meaning that the rating factors for the stringers will need to be revised to reflect their current condition. Unfortunately, the size of the replacement stringers is not known and can not be correlated to the as-built ratings provided in the TransSystem report. If the deteriorated stringers have





been replaced in kind, the Inventory level rating factor is controlled by the truss diagonals and increases to 0.72, meaning the bridge could safely carry vehicles up to 25 tons on a continuous basis.

It should be noted that the load rating indicated the use of an Impact Factor of 1.3 during the analysis of each vehicle. The Impact Factor is used to account for the dynamic effect of the design vehicles traveling over the bridge at highway speeds. This factor is based on the length of the bridge span being analyzed and does not take into account characteristics of the traffic using the bridge. A review of the AASHTO Impact Factor requirements seems to indicate that the maximum Impact Factor required would be on the order of 1.25. In addition, given the geometry of the bridge, and characteristics of the traffic that will use the bridge, lowering the Impact Factor to 1.10 may be warranted. Lowering the Impact Factor will decrease the dynamic effect of the live loads and in turn increase the load rating factors for each structural component.

In order for the design vehicles to use the bridge on a continuous basis, the diagonal truss members will need to be strengthened. If the diagonal members are strengthened the overall Inventory and Operating Load Ratings for the bridge will be controlled by the as-built capacity of the original stringers (0.97 for the HS-20 design vehicle and 0.92 for the concrete truck. Furthermore, if the load rating is revised, taking into account a reduced Impact Factor representative of the anticipated traffic flow, these rating factors will likely be above 1.0. This means that the bridge can be used for access without a weight restriction. In addition, reducing the Impact Factor will also reduce the amount of strengthening required by the diagonals to achieve Inventory Rating Factors greater than 1.0.

## FIFTH STREET BRIDGE

The Fifth Street Bridge is a single span steel Warren Pony Truss with a concrete filled steel grate deck incorporating an epoxy concrete wearing surface and stay in place forms. The bridge has a span of approximately 135 feet, a curb-to-curb width of approximately 25'-11" feet, an approximate out-to-out width of 28'-6" feet, and a skew of approximately 5 degrees with the abutments. Each truss consists of six interior truss panels and two end panels, each measuring approximately 16'-10" in length.

Our evaluation found the bridge to be generally in fair condition overall with areas of significant deterioration noted in visible areas of the floorbeams webs and on the top surfaces of the horizontal gusset plates along the bottom chord. Due to the water surface elevation in the canal at the time of our inspection our visual evaluation of the bridge was limited. Only the areas above the top of the floor beams were visible and accessible. A majority of each floorbeam, portions of the bottom chord, and the entire underside of the





Mr. Walter Ramsey

April 25, 2011

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bridge deck, the stringers, and abutments were not visible. Our evaluation noted the following:

- Epoxy concrete wearing surface is significantly deteriorated with almost 100% of the wearing surface missing or exhibiting significant deterioration
- The concrete filled steel grate decking exhibits moderate heavy scale of the concrete throughout with noticeable cupping / rutting of the surface
- Railing has areas of impact damage and deteriorated paint
- Deck joint has failed allowing debris to fall onto the bridge seat below
- Paint generally in poor condition exhibiting areas of random deterioration throughout
  - Moderate surface rust with slight pitting was noted at random locations throughout the vertical and diagonal members, and along the top chord
- Floorbeams typically exhibit heavy and laminar rust within visible areas near the ends of the floorbeams
- Horizontal gusset plates along the bottom chord typically exhibit debris accumulation and heavy rust

The last Routine Inspection dated September 12, 2009, Fracture Critical Inspection dated September 12, 2009, and Special Member Inspection dated September 22, 2010 were obtained from MassDOT and reviewed to evaluate the condition of the existing bridge. These MassDOT inspections noted the following items:

- Floorbeams 1 and 2 have section loss of up to 1/4" along the flanges with no measurable loss along the webs
- Floorbeams 3-8 exhibit heavy rust with significant section loss along the webs and bottom flanges under the curb lines (up to 4 feet in width)
  - Section loss is typically 1/4" on each web face with areas of 100% loss noted
  - Areas of section loss along the bottom flange up to 3/8"
- Light to moderate rust with pitting noted in scattered areas of the top chords
- Minor to moderate rust in areas of the low chords
- Minor spot rusting along the vertical and diagonal members of the trusses
- The lower lateral bracing members have scattered areas of rust, mainly next to the bottom chord at the panel points
  - One section of the lateral bracing in panel #2 was noted as being bowed downward up to 2"
  - Lateral bracing in panel #4 is slightly bent
- Gusset plates/connections along the bottom chords exhibit moderated to heavy rust





- Bearings exhibit moderate to heavy rust with impacted rust between the masonry and sole plates
- Bridge seats have moderate to heavy debris accumulation
- Areas of spalled concrete and scaling noted along the breastwalls of the abutment
  - East breastwall has deterioration measuring up to 9" high x 12" deep from stringer 1 to stringer 4

The bridge was posted for load restriction between the 2009 and 2010 inspections. The current load restriction for a 3S2 vehicle is 15 tons. A 3S2 vehicle is a newer design vehicle that better represents the type of large trucks currently in use. Both the 3S2 vehicle and the HS-20 vehicle are 72,000 pound (36 ton) vehicles. The primary difference between the two vehicles is the number and spacing of the axles. The figure below illustrates the current design vehicles that the bridge is posted for.

massDOT

LRFD Bridge Manual - Part I

7-15

LOADINGS USED FOR BRIDGE RATING

H20 VEHICLE

TOTAL WEIGHT  
20 TONS



TYPE 3 VEHICLE

TOTAL WEIGHT  
26 TONS



TYPE 3S2 VEHICLE

TOTAL WEIGHT  
36 TONS

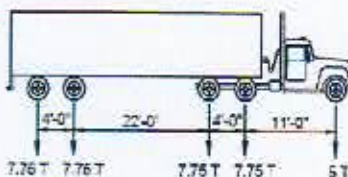


FIGURE 7.6





Mr. Walter Ramsey  
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Page 8

Although the routine inspection, dated September 12, 2009, did not indicate items in need of repair, the information in the inspection report suggests that the following items require repair:

- Epoxy wearing surface
- Bridge Paint
- Floorbeams

It was indicated during our March 23, 2011, meeting that the MassDOT is planning to replace the Fifth Street Bridge. A review of the MassDOT ongoing project list indicates that a project has been initiated for replacing the bridge at this time.

## CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

### **FLPR HEAD GATE BRIDGE**

Our evaluation of the FLPR Head Gate Bridge indicates that the bridge will likely be capable of functioning as an access bridge for the mill complex without a load restriction if the bridge is strengthened and repaired. We recommend that the bridge be inspected during the annual power canal shutdown to determine if additional repairs are needed beyond those provided in the TransSystem report. In addition, we recommend that the load rating analysis be updated using an Impact Factor that better represents the characteristics of the anticipated traffic. This analysis will determine the amount of strengthening required in the diagonal members and the capacity of the remaining structural steel components based on the lower Impact Factor.

Based on our current evaluation, we recommend that the following repairs be made prior to opening the bridge to vehicular traffic:

- Remove and replace existing timber bridge rail with approved vehicular bridge rail
- Strengthen existing diagonal members
- Install / repair bracing between the steel caissons of the pier bent
- Remove existing bridge deck and install new galvanized deck pans with asphalt overlay incorporating waterproof membrane between asphalt lifts
- Install a DOT approved bridge joint system
- Shim gaps under stringer bearings for S3 and S4, at the west abutment, and S2 at the east abutment

Long term repairs of the FLPR Head Gate Bridge should include the following:





FUSS & O'NEILL

Mr. Walter Ramsey

April 25, 2011

Page 9

- Clean and paint the bridge
- Repair the east abutment
- Fill the voids under the west abutment facing with lean concrete

### FIFTH STREET BRIDGE


Our evaluation of the Fifth Street Bridge indicates that the horizontal gusset plates exhibit moderate deterioration, and the floorbeams are severely deteriorated and need to be repaired. The current posted load restrictions are based on MassDOT inspections and ratings which was not available for review. Currently the bridge is inspected once a year due to the deteriorated condition of the floorbeams.

In its current condition the bridge has a limited capacity and can only support a 15 ton 3S2 truck. In addition, a three axle concrete truck would be limited to approximately 13 tons, or 1/3 of the design vehicle weight. This will obviously limit the use of the bridge as a point of access to the mill complex. From a structural standpoint, if the deteriorated components are repaired, it is anticipated that the structural steel components of the bridge will have Inventory and Operating Rating Factors greater than 1.0 and the bridge would be capable of supporting all legal vehicular loads without a weight restriction. However, it should be noted that the configuration of the bridge may not provide adequate sight distance or the minimum turning radius required for a loop road into the mill complex.


If the bridge is replaced by MassDOT, the design of the bridge should incorporate the geometric requirements of the proposed loop road through the mill complex.

Should you have any questions concerning the findings of our bridge evaluations for the FLPR Head Gate and Fifth Street bridges and, the contents of this letter, our recommendations, or need additional information we may have obtained during our review of the inspection reports, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Peter D. Boyle, P.E.  
Project Manager

Reviewed By

  
Stuart H. Harris, P.E.  
Associate

Enclosures: Photographs  
MassDOT Routine & Special Member Inspection – Sept 12, 2009





FUSS & O'NEILL

Mr. Walter Ramsey

April 25, 2011

Page 10

MassDOT Fracture Critical Inspection – Sept. 12, 2009  
MassDOT Special Member Inspection – Sept. 22, 2010  
TransSystem Inspection/Load Rating Report





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Photo No. 1: FLPR Head Gate Bridge - South Elevation  
Note condition of paint and areas of rust



Photo No. 2: FLPR Head Gate Bridge - Facing west on east approach  
Note condition of paint / areas of rust / and open bridge joint





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Photo No. 3: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – configuration of truss panels / bridge railing  
Facing northeast from western span



Photo No. 4: FLPR Head Gate Bridge - Typical configuration of truss  
Note condition of paint and areas of rust





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Photo No. 5: FLPR Head Gate Bridge - Typical connection at end of top chord



Photo No. 6: FLPR Head Gate Bridge - Typical connection along top chord





Photo No. 7: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – Typical area of surface rust  
Pitting with little to no section loss typical



Photo No. 8: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – Typical bottom chord connection  
Note condition of paint and areas of rust





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Photo No. 9: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – Typical condition of bottom chord connection  
Top surface of gusset plate - note area of section loss along leg of angle



Photo No. 10: FLPR Head Gate Bridge - Eastern most floor beams and stringers  
East face of floorbeam





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Photo No. 11: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – Typical bridge joint  
Note lack of actual bridge joint system



Photo No. 12: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – Southeast bearing of eastern span  
Note accumulation of debris on bearing seat





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Photo No. 13: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – Southwest bearing of west span



Photo No. 14: FLPR Head Gate Bridge – North caisson of steel pier bent  
Note condition of paint and areas of rust



## G

Email correspondence regarding the lifespan  
of Strathmore Pedestrian Bridge- Prepared by  
Peter Boyle, PE 4/6/2011



## msey - Montague Planner

---

Peter Boyle [PBoyle@fando.com]  
Wednesday, April 06, 2011 4:22 PM  
Walter Ramsey - Montague Planner  
Expected life of Pedestrian Bridge over Power Canal  
DSC\_0413.JPG

To:  
Subject:  
Attachments:

Walter,

Just wanted to follow up with you on our conversation concerning the expected life of the existing pedestrian bridge over the power canal.

In my opinion based on our past observations and my last site visit on March 23, 2011, the bridge will likely remaining standing for quite some time if no loads are placed on it. The amount of time is hard to pinpoint but thinking in terms of decades wouldn't be out of line. The issue is that localized deterioration and section loss will continue to reduce the capacity of the bridge. I would estimate that without maintenance and repairs, localized failures of the secondary member connections may begin to occur within a time frame of 10-15 years, with ongoing deterioration making the bridge hazardous to construction crews in a period of 5-10 years. This isn't to say that the bridge couldn't be repaired, only that the level of effort to implement those repairs would increase.

Also note that a localized failure of a secondary member connection wouldn't necessarily mean that the bridge would collapse. If several of the secondary member connections failed and caused a redistribution of loads within the bridge members, a primary connection could be overloaded. A failure of a primary connection failure would likely cause the bridge to collapse as this is a non-redundant structure. I have attached a photo of a secondary member connection under the bridge deck to better illustrate the point.

This is of course my opinion based on our initial inspection and report in 2008 and my last visit in 2011. The only real way to better define the expected remaining life of the bridge would be to perform additional inspections in order to monitor the rate of corrosion and deterioration.

Peter Boyle, PE  
Project Manager  
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. | 317 Iron Horse Way, Suite 204 | Providence, RI 02908  
860.646.2469 x4535 | [pboyle@fando.com](mailto:pboyle@fando.com) | cell: 860.875.7069 | [www.fando.com](http://www.fando.com)

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Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 6020 (20110406)

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The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>



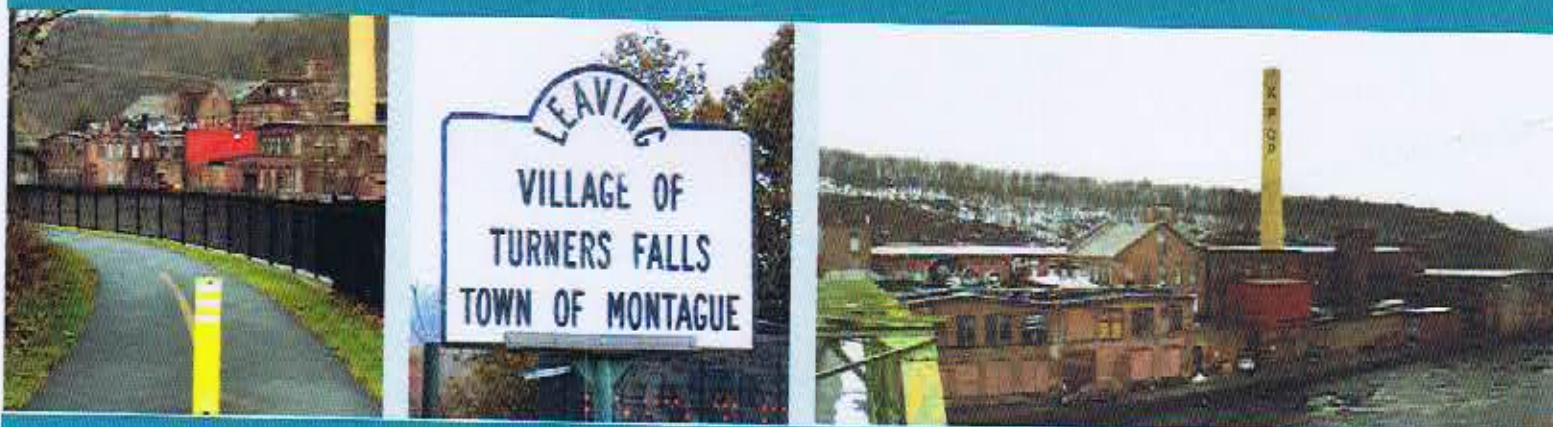
# H

Strathmore Mill Complex Redevelopment-  
Technical Assistance Panel Report- Prepared by  
Urban Land Institute 2010. (excepts)



# A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PANEL REPORT

## **Strathmore Mill Complex Redevelopment** **Montague, MA**



**Urban Land  
Institute**

**Boston**

**Serving the Six New England States**



## 2. Background & Assignment

### a. Property Overview

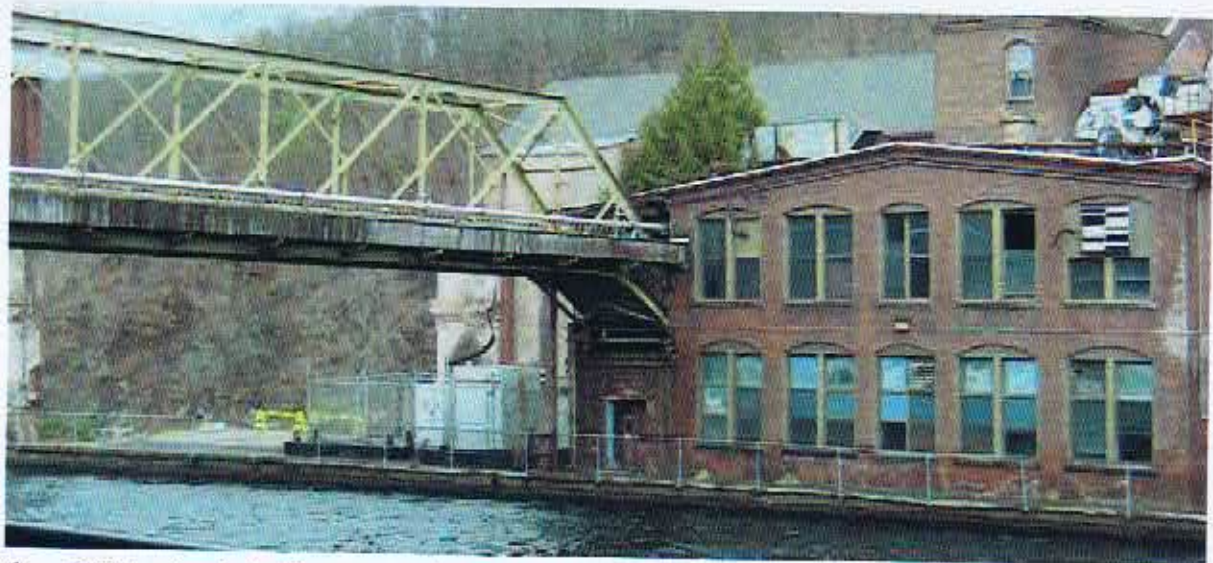
The Strathmore Mill is located near downtown Turners Falls on a strip of land bounded by the Connecticut River on the north and a hydroelectric power canal to the south. There are several properties on the island including the active Southworth Papermill, Swift River Hydro facilities (located in Building 9 of the Strathmore Mill Complex) and abandoned property to the east of the Strathmore site. The site is located within a Historic-Industrial zoning district. The surrounding land uses include mixed commercial, industrial and residential. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was on the 2007 list of the ten more endangered historic resources by Preservation Massachusetts.

The Strathmore Mill consists of 10 buildings which range in height from two to four stories, on a 1.93 acre site. The structure has a total floor area of approximately 224,000 square feet with an overall footprint of 55,000 square feet.

### Site History

The Town of Turners Falls was designed as a planned industrial community. The Strathmore Mill, one of the original mills in town, was built in 1874 by the Keith Paper Company. The Strathmore Paper Company acquired the site in 1953 and operated it until 1994. Since then, the mill has had several owners and has been used for a variety of purposes.

In 2007, an arson fire destroyed building 10 of the mill complex and damaged two other buildings. Later that year, the Mill was purchased by the Swift River Group which planned to develop the site into a film school with several studios, restaurants and other ancillary uses. The developer had planned to take advantage of many historic tax credits and film industry credits. The town took ownership of the mill in February 2010 for non-payment of taxes and has been vacant since 2007.



*figure 3. Pedestrian footbridge spanning the power canal and bicycle path to connect Strathmore Mill with Canal Street and downtown Turner's Falls.*



## 4. Recommendations

The panel thinks the Strathmore Mill site while very challenging, is also very unique and integral Turners Falls. Given this, the redeveloper of the site will also need to be unique and the Town should expect the redeveloper to have excellent credentials for taking on fairly challenging projects. Ideally, the town will find an end-user willing to redevelop the site that can use the uniqueness of the site and believes in its full potential. However, such end users, like an institution use (school or hospital) are probably rare. Therefore, the Town should expect the process of finding the right redeveloper to take a lot of time and then even longer to complete the redevelopment. It may take 5-10+ years for the site to get redeveloped.

The top recommendation of the panel is to hold off on the RFP until some unknown risks can be better understood/developed, including site access, environmental cleanup, and easement/legal rights issues.

A critical issue needing to be addressed is access. It is worth noting that, although the site's transportation infrastructure was state of the art in the nineteenth-century when it was first developed, it has not been updated in a meaningful way since then. The infrastructure needs significant improvement. The Town should prepare a transportation master plan for the entire "island" on which the site is located and use this as the basis for funding requests. In seeking funding, the Town should point out that in order to preserve nineteenth-century buildings, upgrades to their nineteenth-century infrastructure are required.

Three specific access improvements were identified by the Panel, and the Panel recommends that all of them be pursued.

1) The only vehicular access to the site currently is via an easement connecting to Turners Falls Road via the Southworth Mill site. A steel girder-supported bridge spanning the canal ends at the intersection of Turners Falls Road and this easement, and the design of the bridge precludes right turns into or left turns out of the site, because the bridge abutments protrude well into the space that even small passenger vehicles would use to make a comfortable turn. This compromises access to both mill complexes, and all land on the island. This bridge should be replaced with a flat span whose structure permits an intersection geometry allowing all turning movements into and out of the industrial zone for modern freight vehicles.

2) Vehicular access to the opposite (eastern) end of the island is feasible. It would require an easement across the Discovery Center parcel (which is owned or managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation), a new bridge, and an improved roadway across the eastern abutting property. This would allow redundant access to all property on the island, including the Strathmore complex.

3) Historically, workers at the Strathmore Mill would park on the opposite side of the power canal, along Canal Street, and walk into the Mill via a pedestrian bridge. The bridge is still standing but is closed due to lack of maintenance and un-



safe conditions. Public funding should be secured to allow the walkway to be refurbished. The walkway could be a necessity, in order to access adequate parking, or an amenity as an exciting means of accessing the site, depending on the development proposal. Ideally, the walkway would be enclosed and arrive inside at the same grade as Canal Street, rather than descending several levels of stairs as in the current arrangement.

The pile of debris left from the fire could concern potential redevelopers given the unknown environmental cleanup costs. The panel thinks the town could make the site more attractive if it disposes of this debris pile now. MassDevelopment may be a good source for funding the cleanup of this pile.

Another major concern of the panel is the legal rights to the existing easements. At the interviews, it appeared that there was some disagreement around the easement rights for the property between the Town, Southworth Paper, and FirstLight Power. A redeveloper is going to face enough challenges and will look to the Town to firm up its easement rights stated in the RFP. Given the complexity of the site and surrounding area, it is important that all parties that own land on the island are agreeable to whatever eventually gets built on site. Therefore, it is important for the Town to continue working with the abutters now and firming up those rights and discussing potential uses on the site.

Since solving these issues will take time and the length of the redevelopment process could be long the panel recommends that the Town focus more

attention on maintenance of the site, especially repairing leaks in the roof and ensure the structural integrity of the buildings remain intact.





*Board of Selectmen*  
**Town of Montague**

1 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

(413) 863-3200 xt. 108

FAX: (413) 863-3231

February 27, 2013

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. P-2485 and  
Turners Falls Project No. P-1889**

Dear Secretary Bose,

The Montague Board of Selectmen supports the following for the Turners Falls Project integrated licensing process. In each case a similar study has been proposed by a separate entity.

- An assessment of the effectiveness of the fish passage at Cabot Station and the Turners Falls Dam.
- A wildlife habitat assessment of the bypass
- An assessment of erosion at the Turners Falls Pool
- Facilities that improve canoe access to the river and portage around the dam.
- An assessment of how the project can contribute to implementation of the Connecticut River National Blueway concept as designated by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, the goal of which is "to advance a whole river and watershed approach to conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and sustainable economic opportunities in the watershed in which we live, work, and play".

The residents and natural resources of the Town of Montague would be well served by these studies.

Regards,

Christopher Boutwell  
Chairman of the Board of Selectmen



Document Content(s)

Native American District Properties TF 02282013.PDF.....	1-108
Historic-Industrial District Management Plan 02282013.PDF.....	109-162
Historic Industrial District Cover Letter 02282013.PDF.....	163-163