

Cambridge Advisory Committee on City Art, Monuments and Markers
Meeting #6
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
6:00-8:00

I. Participant Agenda

Materials in Advance

- Guiding Principles
- Criteria
- Possible actions for remediations
- Pictures of George Washington's presence on the Cambridge Common

Desired Outcomes

- Scenario test of the products that have been developed (not an actual decision)
- Committee closure and reflection

Agenda

- **Opening**
- **Scenario Test Case Examining an Object**
 - George Washington's presence on the Cambridge Common: gate and monument
 - Presentation from Cambridge Historical Commission
 - Review Criteria, Guiding Principles, and Possible Actions
 - Consider possible actions
- **Break**
- **Process Reflection**
- **Committee Closure**
 - Go-around: One thing I learned or a hope for the future for the work we have done... “
- **Next Steps and Closing**

II. Definition of Shameful Act

For the purposes of this committee, a “shameful act” shall be defined as “An act in which an individual continues to be and/or was:

1. Directly engaged in, profited from, and/or was principally known for their role supporting the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade or enslavement;
2. Directly participated in the theft of land and/or genocide of Indigenous People;
3. Engaged in work and/or efforts that promoted the violence of white supremacy and/or a hierarchy of human value based on race, gender, and/or other aspects of human identity, including categories in the City’s non-discrimination ordinance.

III. Guiding Principles

Reckoning with power to represent values in public

recognizing that the ability to represent values in public is powerful; reckoning with deeply rooted inequities and injustices in Cambridge while looking to a just future.

Historical understanding

respect for and commitment to in-depth and nuanced histories acknowledging multiple perspectives, including the narratives of people who have been actively marginalized.

Inclusion

creating conditions for all people to feel welcome in Cambridge’s public spaces and enable inclusive public processes by which City art, monuments, and markers are included in such spaces.

Complexity

acknowledging layered and evolving narratives represented in Cambridge’s public spaces, with preference for additive, relational, and intersectional approaches over subtractive ones. City art, monuments, and markers have multiple meanings that are difficult to unravel, and it is often impossible to agree on a single meaning.

Justice

recognizing the erasure embedded in Cambridge’s collection of City art, monuments, and markers; addressing histories of dispossession, enslavement, and discrimination not adequately represented in the current public landscape; and actualizing equity.

IV. Criteria

Meeting at least 1 of these criteria:

1. Community led public reaction that supports a just City, prioritizing anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion
2. Significant community opposition (as part of larger cultural/political concerns)
3. Recommendation from multiple local community members, particularly centering the voices of women, people of color, and people from other historically marginalized communities
4. Egregious historical oversights, and/or revelation of new, significant information about the public art, monument, or marker and what or whom it represents”

V. Possible Actions/Remediations

The City of Cambridge takes reviewing City-owned objects extremely seriously, particularly focusing on those which may be viewed as inconsistent with the values of Cambridge, by which we mean a just City that prioritizes anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion. The City of Cambridge recognizes that removal of an object is a serious response and will only choose to remove an object after a thorough, transparent deliberation process that centers women, people of color, and those from other historically marginalized communities.

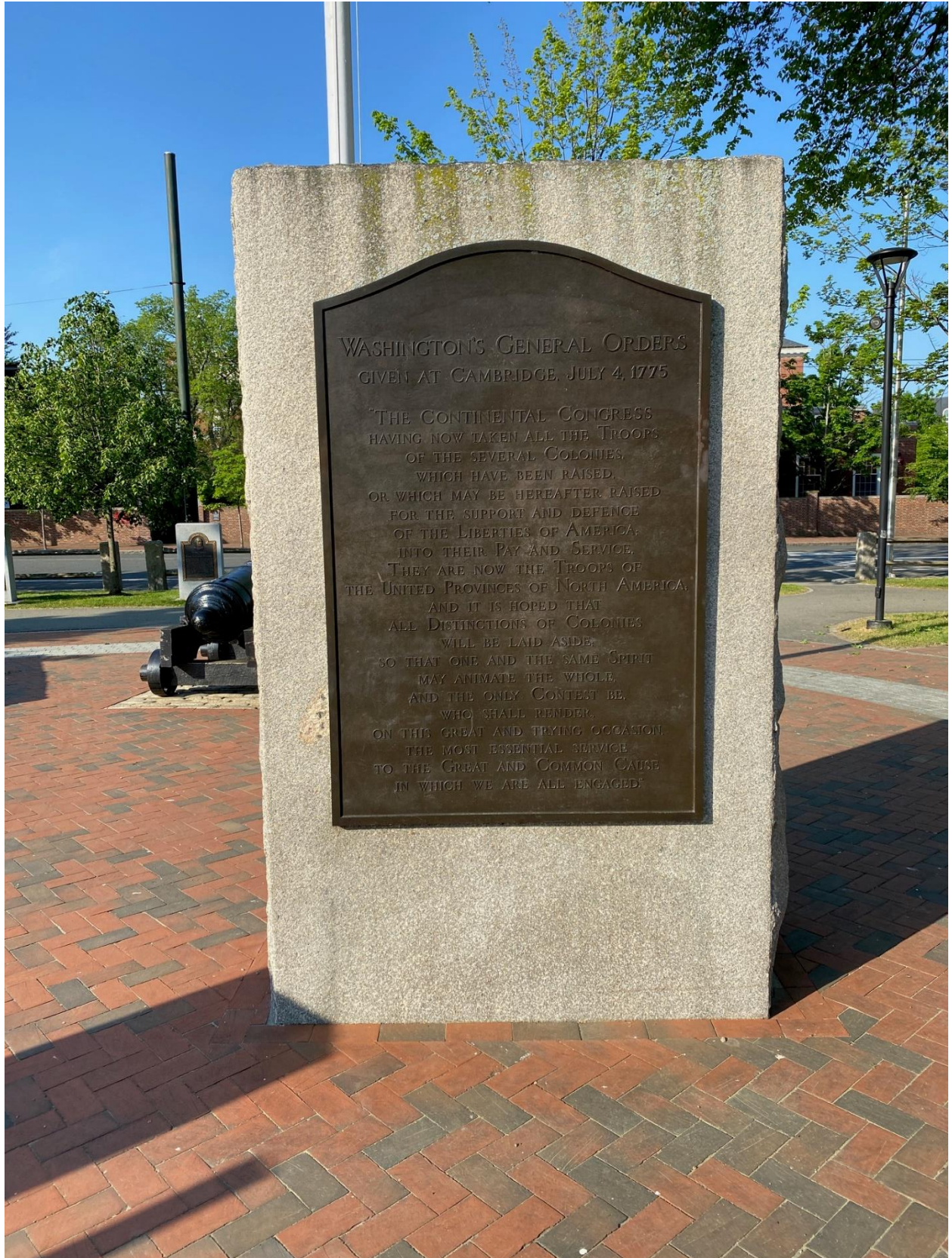
1. **No Action is Deemed Necessary**—Existing public art, monument, or marker remains in place without intervention.
2. **Re-Contextualization**—Provide new or additional context by any means including: install site-specific plaques or signage, update historical information, disclaim endorsement of the acts of historic figures, or provide information through a publicly accessible online database that offers translation services.
3. **Relocation**—Relocate to another City-owned public site. Alternatives include relocation or long-term loan to cultural organizations, museums, or relevant historical, cultural, or educational settings.
4. **New Temporary or Permanent Works**—Commission new artworks in any medium including sculpture, performance, and socially engaged art in order to foster public dialogue on polarizing historical moments and to amplify additional or excluded voices and underrepresented histories.
5. **Removal**—remove offending, controversial, or outdated works from outdoor or indoor displays on public property.

**VI. Pictures of George Washington's Presence on Cambridge Common
June 2021**





GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
HAVING TAKEN COMMAND OF
THE ARMY OF THE UNITED COLONIES
AT CAMBRIDGE
INSPECTS THE TROOPS NEAR THIS SPOT
ON THE FOURTH DAY OF JULY 1775



WASHINGTON'S GENERAL ORDERS
GIVEN AT CAMBRIDGE, JULY 4, 1775

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
HAVING NOW TAKEN ALL THE TROOPS
OF THE SEVERAL COLONIES,
WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED,
OR WHICH MAY BE HEREAFTER RAISED
FOR THE SUPPORT AND DEFENCE
OF THE LIBERTIES OF AMERICA,
INTO THEIR PAY AND SERVICE,
THEY ARE NOW THE TROOPS OF
THE UNITED PROVINCES OF NORTH AMERICA,
AND IT IS HOPED THAT
ALL DISTINCTIONS OF COLONIES
WILL BE LAID ASIDE,
SO THAT ONE AND THE SAME SPIRIT
MAY ANIMATE THE WHOLE,
AND THE ONLY CONTEST BE,
WHO SHALL RENDER,
ON THIS GREAT AND TRYING OCCASION,
THE MOST ESSENTIAL SERVICE
TO THE GREAT AND COMMON CAUSE
IN WHICH WE ARE ALL ENGAGED.





