



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development Department

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Heritage Commission
DATE: September 19, 2023
SUBJECT: Finance Committee Referral

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

The Heritage Commission received a request from the Finance Committee to review language included on page 645 of the Draft FY2024 Budget that pertains to the history of Concord, as well as demographic data. The page is taken from a “community profile” prepared by the State of New Hampshire, and included due to the demographic data. For clarification, said information appears on page 647 of the Adopted FY2024 Budget.

Specifically, during its June 5, 2023 meeting, the Finance Committee asked the Heritage Commission to provide feedback on the paragraph pertaining to history, specifically, a suggestion that was made to include the phrase “thousands of years” in a sentence pertaining to the length of time Native Americans had lived in the vicinity.

Discussion

Heritage Commission members noted that much of the historical language included on the page in question contained inaccuracies, and that the historical information in general is irrelevant to the budget process.

With regard to the addition of the phrase “thousands of years”, members noted that this statement does not appear to be proven, regardless of whether it appears in other locations on the City website. Members were not aware of any research to back up the statement.

In response to the request for feedback, the Heritage Commission offered the following:

“Historical reference in the city budget from the state website appears irrelevant to the budget process. Given this information, the Heritage Commission recommends removing this document from further budget cycles to eliminate confusion.

Further, the Heritage Commission found the paragraph about the History of Concord to include numerous errors. If Council decides to keep the State’s page, the Heritage Commission would gladly work with the State of NH (authors of the document) to correct the inaccuracies. Otherwise, the City should develop its own demographic data to be included in the budget.

With regard to references in the City website to historical data, the Heritage Commission would be happy to work with the Public Information Office to assure a higher level of accuracy than is present today should the website undergo redevelopment.”