

Timeline for Addressing Racial Reconciliation Concerns Including Relocation of the Confederate Monument Edenton Town Council

February 2020: Council revises Town's 2017 Vision Statement. Emphasis placed on "equality, respect and inclusiveness" as important community components with new goal proposing creation of Human Relations Commission to "support Edenton as an affirming community open to diverse lifestyles and differences in belief." New Vision Statement adopted by Town Council August 2020.

June 2020: Following the killing of George Floyd in May, Mayor and Town Council adopt "Statement of Solidarity" calling for end to "systematic racism and the resulting violence against Black citizens" and for increased local efforts to make Edenton "a more equitable and just community." Included in statement is establishment of a Human Relations Commission to address issues of justice and equality, including concerns related to the Confederate Monument.

Funding for consultant to assist with development of Human Relations Commission included in the 2021-2022 town budget.

November & December 2020: Mayor Stallings names 12-member Human Relations Commission with two alternate members. Mayor Pro-Tem Elton Bond appointed council liaison to this commission.

In December, Council approves Mission Statement for the Human Relations Commission: *"It is the mission of the Edenton Human Relations Commission to strengthen our community by promoting racial equality through activities and policies that foster mutual respect, inclusiveness and harmony among all our citizens."*

August 2021: Human Relations Commission issues report to Town Council with recommendation "to remove the Confederate Monument from its current location on South Broad Street and have it re-located to an appropriate place." Recommendation includes moving monument to Sixth Street adjacent to Beaver Hill Cemetery.

November 2021: Upon the advice of Town Attorney Hood Ellis and following example in Elizabeth City, Edenton Town Council issues statement saying no action will be taken on the Confederate Monument until NC Supreme Court rules on related Forsythe County case.

February 2022: Town Council passes "Resolution of Intent to Relocate the Confederate Monument" presented by Administrative Chairman, Councilman Hackney High. This reverses, in part, November decision to wait for NC Supreme Court ruling before acting on the Human Relations Commission's recommendation regarding monument's removal.

May 2022: Town Council approves resolution to transfer Confederate Monument ownership to Chowan County as first step in relocating monument to Veteran's Memorial Park at E. Queen St. and Court St.

July 2022: Town Council revises initial objectives of the Human Relations Commission.

August 2022: Initial discussions underway between Chowan County and Town of Edenton regarding monument's relocation.

November 2022: Town Council officially acknowledges Chowan County's lack of interest in accepting the monument, other plans at town-owned properties are considered.

December 2022: The Town receives a civil suit filed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Confederate Veterans to stop the monument's moving. The plaintiff's attorney tells the Chowan Herald that his clients want the monument "to remain where it is."

December 2022: Town Council forms a sub-committee aimed at studying a new site for the monument.

December 2022-March 2023: Town Council meets in closed sessions (under attorney-client privilege) with Town Attorney Hood Ellis to discuss ongoing litigation over the monument and possible next steps.

February 2023: Administrative Committee Chairman Hackney High brings forward the option of relocating the Confederate Monument to Hollowell Park, during his committee's monument update. Council was in agreement.

March 2023: Town Council unanimously votes to relocate the Confederate Monument to Hollowell Park on West Queen Street, which leaders believe will satisfy requirements in N.C. General Statute 100-2.1. Town Council also votes to allot funding for the relocation. Work begins in earnest to prepare for the monument at Hollowell Park.

March 2023: A restraining order is filed by the plaintiffs in the ongoing civil suit, which is then signed and granted by Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillett, who indicated he is waiting for a resolution from the North Carolina Supreme Court over the removal of the Vance Monument in downtown Asheville. The effect of Judge Tillett's restraining order is that the Town is prohibited from moving the monument until further order of the Court.