

Veterans Memorial Committee Meeting Minutes

07/29/2021

- Attendance: Sandra Lane, Lara Decker, Andrea Cox, Frank Montuori, Janet Montuori, Will Holden, Stanley Benner, Bill Benner, Chris Hall, Peter Anderson
- Updates: The current balance raised for the Veterans Memorial is \$9,165.05. Stanley asked if the group has approached the town for money for this project. Andrea said it was discussed before COVID, but the group hasn't made a formal request yet. Andrea asked Chris if the money should be asked for as a budget item. Chris said it should be brought to the selectmen and suggested having it as a warrant article. Andrea wondered if any money could be gotten from the town for 2021 but since none has been allocated and approved by the town, Chris said it would have to be asked for at the next town meeting in 2022.
- On 7/28, Peter came to the site to map out the path. Peter advised not to have a staging area for donated materials. He felt that would take up too much room on the property. He thought that having a groundbreaking event on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2021, would be a great idea.
- The group discussed what should be in a press release: summary of the project, the money raised so far, what is needed, projected groundbreaking date event, thank you acknowledgements to donors, memorial tree, asking for donations, time capsule(?). Will thought it would be great to have some donors present at the groundbreaking.
- Potential donors were discussed. Some people have expressed interest so those people and organizations would be approached. Potential businesses that might like to donate materials were mentioned: O.W. Holmes, Hagar Enterprises, Rusty Bryant, Toby Plummer, Hanley Construction, Benner Excavation. Potential business monetary donors could be Tidewater, Reny's, Master's Machine, Thompson Cottages, Country Fuel, Fabian Oil, C.N. Brown, Dead River, Newcastle Chrysler, Chris Leeman Construction
- Will asked if there would be any recognition for donors at the site. Andrea said it has been thought about but there is normally a threshold for getting public recognition and she was hesitant to commercialize the site.
- A memorial tree would cost about \$300 which could be planted for John Steer, who was killed in Vietnam. The current tree for him at the dam has no plaque on it. Andrea asked who had provided the plaque that is on a rock at Ellingwood, and Lara said it was from Louis Doe Engraving. Andrea said the \$300 should be included in the project budget. Peter said he could try to match the memorial tree to the existing tree at the dam.
- Peter will provide line items for materials that the committee could use to approach contractors. He will provide a list of certain materials with potential donors matched with those materials. Andrea asked if there was opportunity for contractors to help with labor. Peter explained there are two phases to this project: Phase 1 is the gravel path which is a lot of equipment work so there isn't as much opportunity for volunteered labor. The end of Phase 1 could possibly use some volunteers. Phase 2 is the finished surface such as concrete pavers, asphalt, etc. so Phase 2 has more opportunity for donated labor. Chris asked if pavers would be a more difficult surface to use in relation to the DEP permit. Peter said the current DEP permit says the path needs to be 25 feet from the water and permeable, such as ledge pack. This is why Phase 1 needs to lend itself to all possibilities for Phase 2 for finishing the surface. Peter explained areas of concerns for drainage issues. One spot is at the base of the hill near the kayak launch. Another is the surface of the ledges because they

become part of the underlying material. Since water follows the ledge surface, whatever material is placed over the ledge needs to be stable. Peter says drainage will be very important. Stanley asked if the path needs to be 8 feet wide as planned. Peter said the DEP permit is for 8 feet, but it can be decided to make it less wide if desired. It was permitted this way to allow flexibility with planning and also to allow for two wheelchairs to pass each other. Andrea reminded the group that the 8-foot path made sense in case a vehicle needed to be on that path.

Peter and Chris discussed fundraising strategies. It is important that the product is on paper so that potential donors can see the final product. Peter explained that making the proper first impression is important. He believes it would be worth the investment for someone to make a presentable design of the project. Lara offered to contact Bill Joyce who created the landscape design for the Fish Ladder Park. She would ask what it would cost for a much less elaborate plan for this project.

Next Steps:

Get itemized list from Peter

Approach donors who might donate materials

Lara will research a plaque for the memorial tree.

Lara will approach Bill Joyce to get a price for a visual plan for the Veteran's Memorial

Plan groundbreaking event

Next Meeting:

August 26, 2021 at 4pm