

Vietnam Memorial Committee

**Minutes of Meeting of June 4, 2018 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall,
6:00 PM DRAFT**

Present: Jerry Guthrie (Chairman); Troy Swanick (DPW Representative); Bill Parker; Rodney Dellafelice; Paul Bartolomucci

Excused: Lincoln Daley, John Weidman

Chairman Guthrie convened the meeting at 6:00 PM. J. Guthrie asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2018 meeting; minutes unanimously approved upon a motion by J. Guthrie, seconded by P. Bartolomucci.

The group then reviewed final survey responses as the survey was closed on June 1. P. Bartolomucci questioned whether the public understood that this project was only for the full monument concept and not necessarily the entryway into Keyes Memorial Park. The group determined that further explanation will be needed as this specific project moves forward.

Specific discussion from the survey responses:

R. Dellafelice questioned whether there would be vandalism issues if there is a water feature.

The survey noted that walkways, lighting, and a water feature were favored.

Lighting can be solar, and B. Parker asked if the Korean Monument was lit, and T. Swanick responded yes from behind and that solar lighting might be considered at the same time as this new memorial.

The respondents did not necessarily approve of a statue at this time, but the group did state it could come later.

Responses definitely favor Milford granite, but discussion followed whether or not there was clear understanding from the survey that black granite, if desired, was additional expense.

Discussion followed, based on survey responses, that there was a difference of opinion on whether the monument should be dedicated just to Vietnam or should it include the war on terror/freedom memorial. J. Guthrie suggested asking the Recreation Commission, but P. Bartolomucci stated that the Commission may not have an opinion. At this time, P. Bartolomucci, B. Parker, and R. Dellafelice were leaning towards a Vietnam only monument. It was decided to seek further survey opinion on this.

Further discussion occurred on whether those who served in any service during the intended time period be noted, or only those who served in Vietnam. It was agreed to that those who served in Vietnam would be differentiated. J. Guthrie stated that he knew of several potential contributors in favor of the "Freedom" aspect of the memorial and this should be kept in mind.

There were many positive comments favoring the "book" theme, and emphasis on simplicity and black granite.

T. Swanick said he would look at the setback requirements for the monument as there was discussion on the exact location of the memorial.

Respondents seemed to favor incorporating the timeline element into the memorial. More people approved of imagery than not.

After reviewing all the responses there were several questions the Committee still felt additional input was needed – whether this project should be focused on the Vietnam conflict only; whether the memorial should incorporate the war on terror/freedom memorial, or if that ongoing but important issue should be commemorated by a separate memorial. Additionally, the Committee felt it needed additional input on the “black” granite feature as black granite is not indigenous to Milford and must be outsourced. The Committee did feel that the black granite was important for the imagery aspect of the monument. Much discussion on imagery followed. The Committee also felt that the book theme, with pillars but no balls, with a water feature was their preference at this time. There was much discussion as well on how and where to get an “official” listing of appropriate names. P. Bartolomucci suggested contacting both congressional and senate representatives.

B. Parker said he would write up a summary to provide the Recreation Commission on what the Committee has determined to date based on the survey and its next steps. J. Guthrie said the Recreation Commission is meeting on June 13th.

The Committee then looked through online the website found by T. Swanick that focused on war memorials by town throughout the state.

Upon a motion by P. Bartolomucci, seconded by T. Swanick, and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING: **Monday, June 18, 2018 Board of Selectmen’s Meeting Room,
Town Hall, 6 PM**

