

Vietnam Memorial Committee

Site Visit at Keyes Field/Fletcher Site, 6:00 PM; Banquet Hall, Town Hall, 6:40 PM

Meeting Notes – December 11, 2017 - DRAFT

Present: Jerry Guthrie (Chairman), Lincoln Daley (Community Development Director) arrived at 7 PM; Troy Swanick (DPW Representative); Bill Parker; John Weidman; Rod Dellafelice (Conservation Commission Representative)

Excused: Art Faint, Chris Faint, Paul Bartolomucci

Site Visit: The group convened at 6 PM at the proposed site of the memorial on the “Fletcher” property on Elm Street, adjacent to Keyes Field. J. Guthrie had marked out the tentative location for the memorial, to the west of the existing Korean War Memorial. Guthrie also presented a revised concept that reflected a reduced size, 20 feet in total width, 8 feet high (center panel) with 6-foot columns at each end. The structure as shown would be three panels, the center panel consisting of a water feature. The northerly side of the memorial would represent Vietnam, the southerly side facing Elm Street would represent the ongoing war on terror. Discussion followed on including the names of all New Hampshire residents who served in the Vietnam conflict, and how to emphasize the Milford men (Mr. Lorden and Mr. MacAllister). Ideas brought forward included all names on bronze plaques, engraving, and possibly planting appropriate trees for each Milford man, with a plaque. Landscaping, benches, pavers would be planned for. The memorial would be directly opposite Cottage Street providing a focal point at that intersection.

Banquet Hall: The committee reconvened in the Banquet Hall at Town Hall at 6:40 PM. Much discussion ensued, and Weidman and Dellafelice emphasized that imagery on the monument should be symbolic, and the goal/mission for this monument is to provide a memorial with educational value that tells a story.

Construction materials were discussed, and it was definitely decided that the structure would be of Milford granite, with the use of veneer on each panel. Guthrie distributed examples from a Vermont company he had been in contact with that utilizes laser engraving. Parker questioned whether the Vietnam portion of the monument should be on the street side so that the public could better identify the main purpose of the memorial, although he acknowledged that the quieter and more reflective side of the monument is the north side. Discussion followed and the group felt that the design could incorporate elements that focus on leading visitors to the northerly side.

Discussion followed on the use of local contractors, who would supervise construction (Public Works). Weidman offered to supervise the engineering and imagery.

The group discussed the comprehensive listing provided by Art Faint of names of those who served. Weidman offered to contact Eddy Whitcomb of Brookline to see how that Town had researched its names.

L. Daley questioned the size of the monument, and discussion followed on the 20’ vs. the WWII and Korean monuments. The group agreed that when looking at the width of the monument at the site visit

1 the 20-foot width did not appear overwhelming. T. Swanick added that there should be consistency with
2 other monuments and the group agreed, however adding that there should also be uniqueness.

3 A discussion ensued on the imagery, and what themes the war on terror side should represent. Guthrie
4 explained that the conceptual design showed the history of the war, with panels for the present and
5 what the future may hold, and that "war is hell". Daley expressed concern that the imagery not be
6 overly violent or graphic. Dellafellice liked the "Our Values" shown by Guthrie, and noted the
7 importance of obtaining community input on what these values are and what the design should be. The
8 group acknowledged this and debated whether to provide one or multiple design options and elements
9 to the public. No real decision was made on this, however Guthrie and Weidman will get together to
10 work on imagery and design for the next meeting. It was noted several times during the meeting that
11 input from the VFW and American Legion was very important. Guthrie noted he had tried repeatedly to
12 get representation.

13 The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6 PM in the Banquet Hall, with another
14 meeting the following Monday, January 15th.

15 Guthrie adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

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