

Vietnam Memorial Committee

**Minutes of Meeting of May 21, 2018 - Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall,
6:00 PM DRAFT**

Present: Jerry Guthrie (Chairman), Lincoln Daley (Community Development Director); Troy Swanick (DPW Representative); Bill Parker; Rodney Dellafelice; Paul Bartolomucci

Excused: John Weidman

Also present were Jay Duffy and Paul Taylor

Chairman Guthrie convened the meeting at 6:00 PM. J. Guthrie asked for motion to approve the minutes from the April 30th meeting; minutes unanimously approved upon a motion by R. Dellafelice, seconded by T. Swanick.

J. Guthrie then spoke to the upcoming schedule – survey to end **June 1**, committee to meet on **June 4** to review survey results and further discuss and determine a proposed design, and finalize those names to be placed on the memorial. The group felt it important to keep this memorial consistent with existing memorials relative to names to be placed on it, however there is the issue of how to obtain a solid list of names and who to contact for that. Former Milford police chief Steve Sexton, who guided other monuments, was mentioned as well as contacting Milford's congressional representative. It was decided by consensus that names should be garnered from the period 1959-1975 and that names should be based on those people who served whose home address at the time of enlistment was Milford. J. Guthrie then stated that in July the committee should develop an initial cost estimate, and plan to meet again with the Recreation Commission on Wednesday, **July 11th**. P. Bartolucci offered to help write the warrant for the March 2019 vote needed to establish a fund into which donations can be placed. J. Guthrie then stated that the plan should be presented to the Selectmen in **September**.

The group then began to review preliminary survey results. L. Daley projected preliminary findings on the video screen. Some initial findings include (based on 121 returns):

95% + responses from Milford residents/business owners

Approx. 45% respondents age 55+

Approx. 90% liked the location

Approx. 80% liked the proposed size

Top features desired include a pedestrian pathway, outdoor lighting, seating, and a water feature

Overwhelming support for using locally sourced (i.e. Milford granite) materials

Personal preference for each concept was relatively equally divided

There was a great amount of discussion among Committee members. J. Duffy and P. Taylor complimented the group on its hard work to this point and presenting beautiful designs. However they had several strong concerns, including that this memorial should only be constructed to commemorate those who served in Vietnam and it should not be shared with the ongoing war on terror which should be a separate monument. They had spoken with several residents, and there was voiced concern that some did not want to relive this period of time. P. Bartolomucci responded that the intent of the memorial was to honor those who served, not cause them to relive the time period. Also, the water

feature could be an ongoing costly maintenance issue. A major concern expressed was that the proposed concepts would overshadow the adjacent Korean War memorial. Much discussion followed on size, imagery and cost of granite, as black granite (preferred by many) is much more costly than Milford granite. It was recommended that the proposed monument should be kept simple.

The group will review again the final survey results at the June 4th meeting. Additionally, contacts will be made to invite members of the VFW and American Legion. R. Dellafelice suggested that the Committee obtain photos of existing memorials so that size, design and materials could be compared.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm upon a motion by R. Dellafelice, seconded by P. Bartolomucci and unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETINGS: MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018 - 6 PM – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting Room
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018 – 6 PM – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting Room