



OFFICE OF THE MEMORIALS AND
MOMUMENTS COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
978-649-4514

MEMORIALS AND MOMUMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Approved: July 17, 2017

Meeting Date: Monday, June 26, 2017

Scheduled Agenda Items:

1. Committee Organization and Authority
2. Committee Purpose
3. Roles and Responsibilities of Committee Members
4. Committee Issues for Consideration and Review
 - A. Monument Specification Standards
 - B. New placement or relocation of the bench memorials on the Town Common

Meeting Minutes.

1. This was the first meeting of the Memorial and Monuments Committee for the Town of Dunstable. Attending for the committee were: Alan Chaney, Joseph Dean, Philip DeNyse and Dana Metzler. Also in attendance was Ms. Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator.
2. The first order of business was to assign committee positions. Mr. Chaney indicated that he would be favorably inclined to accept the Chairmanship of the committee if so nominated. The committee members agreed by consensus he hold the position of Committee Chairman for one year. Mr. Chaney accepted the position. Mr. DeNyse offered to serve as the Committee's recorder of minutes. The committee members agreed by consensus Mr. DeNyse serve as the committee's recorder. Mr. DeNyse accepted the position. Positions of the Committee shall be recorded as follows:
 - Mr. Alan Chaney, Chairman
 - Mr. Joseph Dean, Member
 - Mr. Dana Metzler, Member
 - Mr. Philip DeNyse, Recorder

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3. Mr. Chaney provided a brief history of some of the Town memorials as described in the Assessment of Dunstable Memorials report of 2014. Mr. Chaney reflected on the modern trend to memorialize people more frequently. Much of the growth in town memorials has occurred in the last approximately 20 years. One of the most significant grow areas has been on the Town Common with the addition of seven memorial benches. These were placed without an overall plan or guidance on the memorial's design details.
4. There was discussion on the path forward for the committee. The Report of 2014 identified some recommendations for a permanent committee. There is a need to document policy for the placement and management of memorial and monuments in Dunstable. The documentation could be a Town bylaw or a Board of Selectman policy. No conclusion was reached on which approach would be best. It was acknowledged the committee should begin to gather ideas for such a policy.
5. The committee spent some time discussing the issue of moving the seven memorial benches on the Town Common. There has been discussion since March 2015 on the desire to move the Memorial benches. The Committee took a short walking tour to observe the Common and its geography. Ms. Hutton indicated letters had been written to families of the memorials on the topic of moving the memorials and responses had been received. It is up to the Memorials and Monuments committee to propose a new plan for placement of the memorials. It is believed some coordination with the Parks Commissioners will be needed if the benches are moved. Mr. DeNyse will send copies of the relevant Selectboard minutes relating to this issue to committee members. This was also discussed the committee should consider approaching the Selectboard to discuss this issue and the general Memorials and Monuments prioritization of issues.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57PM. The next meeting will be on July 17, 2017 at 6PM in the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip J. DeNyse
Memorials and Monuments Committee Recorder