

Oxford Historical Commission Meeting

April 3, 2017

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On April 3, 2017 four members of the OHC met at the DPW on Charlton Street at 1:30pm with four members of the local DAR Chapter and the Town Manager to view the DAR Monument which has remained in storage the DPW since sometime in 2003-2004. Howard Holbrook, Russell Pytko, Terry Cummings and Jean O'Reilly were present. Absent were Carol Pytko, John Pariseau and Richard Shumway. All members of the OHC had been notified, and this tour was posted.

This Monument was originally placed by the DAR on Camp Hill in an elaborate ceremony in 1911 to commemorate the presence of the preparations taken in Oxford by the Provisional Army soon after the Revolutionary War. The Monument was removed by the town upon the request of the land owner at that time before the housing development on Camp Hill was completed. No appropriate town land remained for the Monument as the owner sold it all into house lots. On-going discussions about the Monument's placement on town property have continued since the early 2000's.

The group looked at town property located at the end of Maple Road where it meets Rawson Ave. The group also looked at the parcel of town property in front of the First Congregational Church. A DAR Monument commemorating the Revolutionary War was erected on that parcel in 1913. The group also discussed the possibility of placing the Monument near Memorial Hall. Various other sites had been looked at during the years as well.

Both the Maple Road site as well as the Main Street site would be equally appropriate locations as one is at the edge of Camp Hill itself and the other is in the middle of the old Training Field where the men trained for the Provisional Army in 1799-1800.

Terry Cummings moved that the Monument be placed on Maple Road but when there was no second, he withdrew the motion.

Russell Pytko moved and it was seconded by Howard Holbrook that the Monument be placed at the Main Street location. Three members voted in favor of Main Street with one member opposed.

The OHC chairman will confer with the Minister at the Church representing the congregation as a courtesy. The DAR Regent and the OHC briefly discussed a need for a re-dedication of the Monument once it is situated. This public memorial deserves a proper location. The DPW would be involved with that relocation.

The efforts extended by many people have been very much appreciated by the OHC in this long, frustrating process.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean M. O'Reilly, chairman