

Approved

A meeting of the Mendon Citizens Advisory Committee for a Military Memorial was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at the Mendon Community Center, 167 North Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY, 14472.

PRESENT: Muffy Meisenzahl, Bob Booth, Town Board Member Cindy Carroll, Town Board Member Tom Dubois, Teressa Koch, Myron Lemperle, Edward O'Brien, Anne-Marie Sweeney and Steve Tschiderer

ABSENT: Peter Lehning, Dawn Worboys

Minutes taken by Bonnie M. Toomey

Zoom and checklist recording done by Danny Bassette.

Ms. Meisenzahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Ms. Koch led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Housekeeping

No new items to address, no guests in person or on Zoom.

#### Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Dubois, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 23, 2021, as submitted.

Adopted: Mr. Booth, Aye; Ms. Carroll, Aye; Mr. Dubois, Aye; Ms. Koch, Aye; Mr. Lemperle, Aye; Mr. O'Brien, Aye; Ms. Sweeney, Aye; Mr. Tschiderer, Aye.

#### Committee Organization

Ms. Meisenzahl advised that the Committee record is available on the Town website.

There were no questions from the Committee Members.

#### Memorial Concept Considerations

As a result of the contributions and talk of moving towards a proposal for the Town Board at the last meeting, Ms. Meisenzahl created a new worksheet. The first column is for location, second for concepts related to the properties and the third for family consideration. The second page included headings of Concepts and Committee Priorities. She also reviewed the Town Board resolution and charge to the Committee. The Committee's priorities must meet family approval, memorialize and remain in perpetuity.

Ms. Meisenzahl asked for Committee Members to share their vision.

Mr. Dubois read what he prepared:

**“Overview:**

“Based on the prior meetings of the committee I think the memorial should first and foremost serve as a remembrance of the three soldiers who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter crash. It should both educate and enlighten about all three men as well as their mission as part of C company 171st General Support Battalion. It is also important is to reflect the gratitude of the community for their service and sacrifice.

**Location:**

“As I mentioned at a past meeting, I think it should be located in a centralized place that both draws community members to see the memorial and also has natural traffic so as to be discovered by community when there incidentally. To me Semmel Road Park makes sense for these reasons:

1. It is centrally located in the town of Mendon.
2. It is owned by the town of Mendon.
3. The infrastructure needed currently there (power, parking and restrooms)
4. There is currently a draw to the park with the athletic fields and tennis courts as well as a potential new town project that would serve as a draw as well.

**Memorial integration, Renaming and establishment of Splash park and family facilities:**

“As was mentioned at a past meeting, for the past year, the town has been looking into a building a splash park recreation area to increase the quality of life for families in the community. Although we are very early on in the process I think this project may dovetail nicely with a memorial in our town for these three soldiers.

**Vision:**

“I see a park named after the men, Koch, Prial and Skoda Memorial Park (word smithing may be required). The park will incorporate existing features (tennis courts, restrooms, parking, etc) and will also include a splash park as well as a pavilion for picnicking and gathering. Center and prominent would be a plaque (or series of plaques) that will memorialize the event, but more importantly the soldiers and their sacrifice. I think this would serve a a great draw to our community and neighboring communities raising the awareness as well as educating.

**Conclusion:**

“Teresa has generously brought to us the families wishes and it is so important for us to focus on that. She said at a meeting the “Christian would love a splash park and would have taken the kids there often”, this made me truly believe that a somber and reverent remembrance in a place that families will love going to might be a great way for our community to celebrate these soldier's sacrifice.”

Ms. Carroll added that her ideas dovetailed with Mr. Dubois adding that she appreciated the beauty of the location. She also feels a flag pole and flag should be included. She added that the inscription might include "When I have your wounded" and/or "Dustoff".

Mr. Booth stated he was in agreement with Mr. Dubois' ideas.

Mr. Lemperle stated his proposal was for 15 Monroe Street location but he would defer to Semmel Road Park. Ms. Meisenzahl stated the importance of having more than one concept and ask him to read his proposal. Mr. Lemperle's proposal follows the minutes. He added that he envisioned something reflective with a quieter tone and shared a photo of the location.

Ms. Meisenzahl asked if anyone expanded on the Gravel Hill location. Ms. Koch stated that after more reflection she feels the Gravel Hill location is not central and not the best idea. She and her neighbors may work with the Mendon Foundation to do something on their property. The Gravel Hill location was deleted as one of the Committee proposals.

Mr. O'Brien had previously introduced the idea of a storyboard located at the Village vest pocket park with the totem pole. He feels the location might be better at the Town Hall overlook or Semmel Road Park. This would fulfill the "stumble upon" and portability opportunities. There was a discussion of an e-presence which could be provided on the Town website to make locations known. Ms. Carroll said to add biographies and this should be prominently displayed on the website. Mr. O'Brien provided a picture example of a storyboard which follows the minutes.

There was discussion on multiple locations and flags. The idea of adding the National Guard flag to existing flagpoles with the American flag was offered. Mr. Tschiderer stated he was not in favor of this. He didn't like the idea of the National Guard appearing to be better than the other branches of the military.

Mr. Lemperle stated that there is room for more granite benches at the veteran's monument in the Village cemetery. He thought one could be dedicated with inscription for these men. Mr. O'Brien talked about an old flagpole that is in the cemetery that could be refurbished to add the National Guard flag. Ms. Koch suggested using the memorial graphic created by a Guardman's wife. Mr. Tschiderer agreed it was a better symbol and that it could be put on anything. A picture of the symbol follows the minutes.

#### Public Comment

No one on Zoom or in attendance.

Ms. Meisenzahl asked the Committee Members to start focusing their thoughts on what to propose to the Town Board for the next meeting. She stated they should have multiple locations and need to capture what goes with each to make an understandable package for the Town Board. She added that the Town Board has the final word. Mrs. Koch will bring what is important to the families.

Mr. Booth will not be in available for the next meeting.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.