Approved

A meeting of the Mendon Citizens Advisory Committee for a Military Memorial was held on Tuesday, April 13, 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, Paul Heaney, Teressa Koch, Peter Lehning, Myron Lemperle, Edward O’Brien, Anne-Marie Sweeney and Steve Tschiderer

ABSENT: Dawn Worboys

OTHERS: Danny Bassette, Michelle Booth

Minutes taken by Bonnie M. Toomey

Ms. Meisenzahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mr. O’Brien led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silent reflection was observed in memory of Kade O’Brien on the ten-year anniversary week.

Ms. Meisenzahl addressed Mr. Heaney’s resignation email. She explained the Committee Members were appointed by the Town Board; therefore, a resignation letter would have to be addressed to the Town Board and sent to the Town Clerk. When asked his intention, he spoke about the “chain of command” and Mr. Moffitt’s email to him, without an intention verbalized. Ms. Meisenzahl reiterated the need to write to the Town Board.

Ms. Meisenzahl referred to handouts which included an updated roster and a worksheet for Memorial Concept Considerations. Mr. Lemperle distributed a pamphlet from the Sons of the American Legion on “The Proper Display and Care of our Nation’s Flag”.

Ms. Meisenzahl introduced Danny Bassette and Bonnie Toomey to the Committee Members.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Heaney, seconded by Ms. Carroll, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2021, as presented.

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

Committee Organization

Ms. Meisenzahl advised the Committee that the meeting schedule has been published in the Sentinel. The Community Center is a polling site, therefore, there will not be a meeting on June 22, 2021.

Denise Zimmerman is the central point-of-contact for communications.

There were no questions from the Committee Members.

Memorial Concept Considerations

Military Protocol

Ms. Meisenzahl pointed out changes with the addition of B company and National Flag Code.

Mr. Tschiderer spoke with the Company Commander and other military. The thought is to have a focal point for celebration of life and remembrance. Both B and C Companies are in agreement.

Family Guidance

Ms. Koch spoke with CWO Prial‘s mother. She trusts in Ms. Koch participation. She also spoke with CWO Skoda’s sister, Cathryn Skoda, who is an artist and will send sketches for consideration. She would like the focus to be on their lives and how MEDEVAC saved lives, a black hawk bird (looking up to the sky) in 3D and something people can walk around.

Ms. Koch offered her perspective on the location standpoint. She and her family live on Gravel Hill Lane. At the end of the street is land that will never be built on and has trails. This location holds deep meaning for the Koch family. She added that Cathryn Skoda was in agreement.

Ms. Koch shared some drawings the children did. Ms. Meisenzahl said concepts could possibly be taken from the drawings.

Integration Options

Ms. Meisenzahl asked for thoughts on Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes proposal for dedication of a section of NYS RT64 honoring the National Guardsmen.

Ms. Carroll suggested adding flags to that section of RT64 with hawks on top and plaques on each. Ms. Meisenzahl asked if this would be similar to the Hamlet flags, Ms. Carroll said yes. Mr. Heaney stated there is a requirement for the American flag to be illuminated during the dark hours. Mr. Dubois asked how this is in the Hamlet, he was answered the flags are on utility poles. Mr. Heaney added that he had talked to RG&E regarding adding lighting and they pointed out that someone has to pay for the electric. Mr. O’Brien added another location option would be the crash site on West Bloomfield Road, a County road. Ms. Meisenzahl stated that the proposal was for RT64.

Mr. Heaney stated in looking at a number of locations he focused on the current Veteran’s Memorial in the Village of Honeoye Falls Cemetery.

There was no other discussion at this time.

Intentions:

Education – transmit information on the people and the military mission

Mr. Lemperle suggested the old library, 15 Monroe Street, where a monument could be in the front yard (this was moved to integration). The education concept would be accomplished with kiosks inside the building.

Mr. Dubois stated in the education piece it is important to include the sacrifice of the men but also their families. Mr. Lemperle agreed, stressing service and family equally important. Mr. Dubois added it is important to clarify that these service people are not only in harms way during deployment but also in everyday training.

Mr. Heaney stated as in an email he circulated he felt there are hundreds of service men and women lost around the country and this should be expanded beyond these three. Ms. Meisenzahl acknowledged his point but the charge of the Committee is to focus on the three Guardsmen lost in the Mendon incident.

Mr. Tschiderer questioned if there are other Gold Star residents in the Town of Mendon. Ms. Meisenzahl stated there are. He suggested highlighting these three men but include the identified Gold Star families.

Ms. Sweeney stated that it is important that the concept be interesting to children, to drawn them in.

Ms. Meisenzahl something to consider under education would be to have it mobile, an outreach possibility. Ms. Carroll added field trip opportunities.

Mr. O’Brien offered two concepts to involve the community. Information boards which would be angled to be readable, could be detachable (for the outreach idea) and in a park location where people gather. He mentioned the Village vest pocket park with the totem pole.

Symbolism – Mr. Lehning stated the mission nickname is “DUSTOFF”.

 Patch from B Company and C Company

Mr. Heaney suggested a video made by art students, possibly a senior project in the future. Mr. Lehning asked what the goal was, Mr. Heaney answered education.

Inscription – Mr. Lehning asked if it was all encompassing, where are we going with this? He made the point if it is too broad, you lose the focus which should be on these three men. He added the education should include information on each as individuals.

Memorial Presence

Structure – kiosk, website, storyboard

Mr. Lehning stated he is not a fan of the above as they don’t get updated. He is more interested in something long-term that will last.

Mr. O’Brien state the story boards can be detached, updated and placed where the public goes. He asked if the family is looking for a monument. Ms. Koch answered that Cathryn Skoda was interested in a monument. The Koch family’s focus is on location. Somewhere where the children can go, not crowded place. She said Christian would have liked a nature location.

Mr. Tschiderer stated from the military discussion, a preference for newer, park buildings as there will be a remembrance celebration on the anniversary date every year for the next five years. He mentioned the soccer fields.

Ms. Carroll stated that at the Highway Garage - playground area, looking to the baseball field is a gorgeous view. She shared that the Town is looking into building a spray park. She met with the Highway Superintendent and a representative from Vortex Aquatic Structures International at the Highway location. The discussion included moving the baseball field next to the soccer field and building a pavilion. The Town has half the monies needed in the recreation fund; maintenance costs wouldn’t be great. The biggest cost would be electric and water estimated to be ten thousand dollars a year. There are recreational trails at that location and the Highway would maintain the park. Ms. Meisenzahl said to put 101 Semmel Road Spray Park under location. Mr. Dubois added that it is a beautiful park and has the draw for the public.

Ms. Meisenzahl noted that it was 8:00 and the Committee Members could think about this idea between now and the next meeting and other concepts to honor these three men to fit there. She reminded the Committee they don’t have to pick one concept.

Mr. Lemperle asked if the family would want this idea. Ms. Koch said it was exciting and cool concept to tie together and a place to bring the children.

Ms. Carroll added the idea of putting a design in the pad of the spray park. Mr. Dubois added that Mendon Town Supervisor Moffitt visited the spray park in the Town of Sweden today and took pictures which he will share.

There was no Public on Zoom or Public Comment. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.