

Minutes of Somersworth Veterans Park Commission Meeting
Stein's Park/ City Hall Conference Room
Monday, September 10, 2018

Committee members present: Councilor Martin Dumont, Chairman
Councilor Richard Michaud, Vice Chairman
Cathy Burns
Doreen Cole
Brian McKay
Bill Wenners
Jenne Holmes
Richard A. Gagnon
Eric Mommsen
Claudette Bayko

Excused Absent: Paul Spendley

Administration present: Bob Belmore, City Manager
Dana Hilliard, Mayor

At 3:45pm members gathered at Stein's Park for a site walk and review, Mr. Belmore introduced Jeffrey Hyland, landscape Architect, from Ironwood Landscape Architecture. & Planning. Discussion about the ideas of the Veterans Park and questions to Mr. Hyland about the site, Mr. Hyland did not see the need for a significant engineering component, other than the need to assess the park, some trees removed. How do we see it used, how does the design process fit into the city, Veterans Memorial, Main Street project, Historical society? Do we see the memorial not as a solemn place but more as a cherished area that people will be drawn to all year, a welcoming place encompassing the memorial, flag poles, amphitheater, sound and lighting?

The meeting resumed in a city hall conference room at 4:07pm, Chairman Dumont re introduced Mr. Hyland to the committee, briefly reviewing what had been discussed at the site review. Mr. Hyland then highlighted what had been done in the Dover project and in Loudon, the importance of the design process, the prep work, quality control, emphasizing proper prep work of the site is very important. Chairman Dumont recognized that we have looked at the Dover project and we want to make ours unique. Eric Mommsen gave a synopsis of our view thus far, ADA compliant walkways, foundation to add memorials by wars in the future ie. Civil War, Korean War, all branches of the service, honoring those who died and current active military members, podium & built in PA system, flagpoles & lighting. It was mentioned not to forget the reserves and the National Guard. The footprint land will remain the same so it is important to have a master plan for the whole park, the topography in the park is good, need to remember the topography in our detailed design, strategic placement of stagnant

displays, well balanced symmetry. We need to explore options such as design built process. Chairman Dumont expressed that we want shovel in the ground for Memorial Day 2019. We need to get out a RFP (request for proposal). So before sending out letter for money, we need a better plan, a better picture, need to prepare properly in order to capture every dollar. Chairman Dumont thanked Mr. Belmore for inviting Mr. Jeffrey Hyland to speak with us and give his ideas and perspectives about our project.

Mr. Dumont asked Brian McKay to give an update about his out reach with BAE, GE in Hooksett, veterans councils, Vietnam vets and combat vets. Mr. Gagnon updated his out reach with Pratt & Whitney. At this time we are testing the waters with our efforts.

Mayor Hilliard said he is supporting us and it is now decision time: honing in on ideas, getting ideas on paper, give him an undesigned element then design it, then forward it to council. Also not to forget the USS Somersworth plaque, suggest including it in Veterans Park. Mr. Belmore will get Dover's RFD and forward it to this committee.

Doreen Cole reported that the VFW Auxiliary will have a Pub Crawl on Saturday, October 20, 2018 and 100% of proceeds will go to our Veterans Park project. Bill Weners took pictures and compiled an album of all monuments in the Peace Walk at Boscawen's Veterans Cemetery for the committee for idea references. Chairman Dumont will forward Paul Spendley's written notes to the committee for review. Also Chairman Dumont added to keep your emails coming they are helpful. Mr. Belmore said, in our RFP, we have 3 options: a) concept of design 2) design and build 3) actual design, we need to reach out to Jeffrey Hyland for ballpark figure then keep going on the RFP. In working on CIP he is thinking of putting in this project for 2020.

Richard Michaud made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Richard Gagnon, motion passed unanimously by hand vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Chairman Dumont announced the next meeting will be on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 4pm in the executive conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudette Bayko, committee member