

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
TRUSTEES OF SOLDIERS' MEMORIALS MEETING
NORTHBRIDGE TOWN HALL

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 7:00PM

MINUTES

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NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
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MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Beneway, Frank DeFazio, Tom Farley, Jim Gallagher, Dick Trier, and Selectmen Chair, Tom Melia.

GUESTS: Tom Clarke and Heather Elster from the Whitin Community Center; Tim Labrie from "Friends of Lasell Field".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved (Melia/Farley).

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

A. CPL. JOHN DAWSON MEMORIAL SQUARE MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL

- Heather Elster and Tom Clarke noted that the Whitin Community Center would like to "give back" to the community by taking on the ongoing maintenance of the Dawson Memorial. If approved, they said that they could begin immediately with spring cleanup. As we asked about the extent of maintenance that they would be able to take on, they said that they would consider any needs, including sealing the concrete platform annually.
- **ACTION:** The motion was made and seconded (Trier/DeFazio) that the trustees gratefully accept the Whitin Community Center's willingness to take on the ongoing maintenance of the Dawson Memorial. Unanimously approved.
- Dick Trier agreed to call Mike Dawson to let him know about this offer.

B. LASELL SPORTS FIELD RECOGNITION

- Tim Labrie made a presentation to the trustees on the "Friends of Lasell Field" proposal for the total refurbishment of the Lasell Field and Track. This proposal to spend \$2,775,000 will be brought to the voters at the Town Meeting on May 7th. He asked for the support of the Trustees of Soldier's Memorials as this project would make Lasell Field a fitting tribute once again for John Whitin Lasell who was killed in action during WWII. He noted that an approved (by the trustees) appropriate memorial would be part of the project.
- **ACTION:** The motion was made and seconded (Beneway/DeFazio) that the Trustees of Soldier's Memorials officially support this project. Unanimously approved.
- Dan Beneway asked Dick Trier to send a letter of support to Tim Labrie.

C. FINANCE REPORT

- Jim Gallagher discussed our financial position with the trustees. It was noted that no monies were encumbered from fiscal year 18 and we have approved three major projects (Kwik Electric- \$3,176.76, Buccacio- \$2,865 and J.F.Rosseel- \$9,900) totaling \$15,941 which will exceed our budget, if all are completed before the end of June. Tom Melia noted that, going forward it is required that we request encumbering funds in writing to avoid any confusion.

D. MEMORIAL LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETION

- Dan Beneway noted concern that Kwik Electric has not started the project yet.

E. WWI WHITINSVILLE REPAIRS

- Dan Beneway said that he would contact Jim Shuris to assure that the contract has been completed and that the project would be completed by Memorial Day.

F. ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN

- As reported last month, Jeff Buccacio has us "1st on the list" for completion this spring as soon as the weather cooperates.

G. MEMORIAL SQUARES UPDATING

- Tom Farley reported that he talked with Tom at Whitinsville Monuments who said that he has asked for a quote on the plaques and has not heard back from his provider.

H. OTHER PROJECT UPDATES

- Jim Gallagher gave an update on the Table of Contents format as well as the Index that he has been developing.

I. COMMUNICATIONS/ CORRESPONDENCE

- No new communications were reported

II. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Dan Beneway again raised the concern that the DPW is under considerable pressure to complete many spring projects, making the cleanup of Memorial Park a possible issue. Dick Trier noted that perhaps other organizations, like the Whitin Community Center might help. Frank DeFazio volunteered to ask Troop 155 if they would take on a service project to work with the DPW on a cleanup day prior to Memorial Day.

A. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, May 8, 2019; 7:00PM at the Town Hall
- Agenda Items:
 - Finance Report
 - Monument Lighting Completion
 - WWI Whitinsville Repairs
 - Monument Maintenance Plans
 - Memorial Squares Updating

B. ADJOURNMENT: 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Richard T. Trier

Richard T. Trier, Secretary

Approved: *May 8, 2019*