

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
Veterans Memorial Committee Meeting
31 March, 2021
6:00 p.m.
 Yankee Springs Fire Station
 1425 S. Payne Lake Rd., Wayland, MI 49348

DRAFT MINUTES
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 Veterans Memorial
 Committee
 Start Up Meeting 3.1.21

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Dave VanHouten.

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Larry Knowles, Frank Fiala, John Frigmanski, Greg Purcell by phone, Dave VanHouten

ROLL CALL

Absent with notice: Bruce Campbell, Ron Heilman, Sandy Marcukaitis,
 Firestaff absent with notice: Dan Miller

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Visitors: None

To get organized

PURPOSE OF MEETING: This first meeting of the committee was to:

- Confirm membership and that personal time was available to dedicate to this committee
- Appoint a chairperson. Dave VanHouten was nominated and approved as the chairperson 4 -0.
- All agreed that the best way to get started was for everyone to voice their opinions. The greatest take away was that the memorial was nothing like what Don Williamson had drawn up, a deep sense of disappointment and embarrassment at how it looks today and how long it has taken to get this far. It is disrespectful to our Veterans and all felt we need to make the memorial something that we all can be proud of. All are committed to taking this lemon and making lemonade.
- Summary of comments:
- Bruce Campbell – Existing monument is nothing like what was approved. Would like to see it moved but also welcomed other opinions and stated he would support the vote of the committee. Possible future expansion of the fire barns should be considered.
- John Frigmanski – Need lights, flags, maybe a flag for each branch of service, lean toward leaving the Monument where it is, finish concrete, engrave the side facing M-179 and light it up. Discussed using casino funds to finish the project. Donations were also discussed.
- Frank Fiala – today would vote for a park location but would support leaving it where it is. Stated we need seats, fix up the back, good landscaping, lighting and maybe 3 flags. Use casino money if possible. Suggested moving fire barns flag to monument. Suggested using posts (he used a better word but I can't remember it) for each branch of service.
- Larry Knowles – Does not like location but it's there. Existing tiles and concrete are in poor shape. Maybe we could remove existing flatwork and reduce, using stamped and dyed concrete, replace the loose tiles with individual bricks. Need lighting and maybe 3 flags. Improve vertical and horizontal concrete. Liked the 1 post for each branch of service idea.
- Greg Purcell – What we have done and not done is disrespectful toward all our vets. Disappointed that the approved plan was not followed. That said, he suggested not spending money moving the monument but use the funds to improve existing. Need lighting, seating, need some flags but they require attention that we may not be able to

deliver (storm flag, half-mast requirements), liked post idea. Emphasized that we need to include the tribes in our dedication ceremony.

- Sandy Marcukaitis – not happy at all with the way the memorial was left. Scrap tile and lumber on memorial, the back facing the road is blank and it was not installed according to approved plan. Wants to see a detailed plan and costs before moving forward.
- Ron Heilman – a call is in to him but we have not connected yet.
- Dave VanHouten – YS citizens voted to put the memorial at the fire barns. I don't think we should invest limited funds into turning the monument but rather develop a plan to greatly improve it. This monument needs to be something that everyone will be proud of. It will be difficult but we have a committee of "doers" and we will deliver an outstanding monument.

Decisions made:

1. Greg would invite Don Williamson to attend our next meeting. We are hopeful he has not given up on the project and would help the township develop a new, better, detailed drawing.
2. Greg will compose a rough draft of a letter to Mark Englerth informing him of the formation of a new Veterans Committee. We also would support his efforts to hold a Memorial Day Parade.
3. The committee would not organize formal ceremony as we anticipate Covid-19 restrictions will remain in effect.
4. Dave will get the existing memorial drawn up showing all measurements.
5. At our next meeting we will start to establish a plan of who will do what from a research standpoint. Once all options are explored, a strategy will be establish on how to accomplish the approved plan.

Dates for next meeting(s):

Next meeting set for 2:00 PM on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at the YS Fire Barns.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting drew to a close at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave VanHouten
Committee Secretary 4.01.21

Date: _____

Approved : _____

Michael Cunningham, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT