

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
RECORD OF MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
June 27, 2017
Mary McElroy Room at McCulloch Building
182 Green Street, Weymouth, MA
MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Frank Burke, Chairman
Ed Walker
Steve McCloskey
Bob Feldman
Keith Spain
Diana Flemer
Joan Anderson

ALSO PRESENT:

Eric Schneider, Principal Planner

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Christine Malloy

Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Spain made a MOTION to APPROVE Minutes of October 11, 2016. Mr. Walker SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

NEW BUSINESS

Request by David Lang for a memorial bench in the new Osprey Overlook Park to celebrate the life of his wife Barbara Lang

Mr. Schneider stated this is a request on behalf of Mr. David Lang in honor of his wife Barbara who has passed to celebrate her life. Mr. Lang is requesting a bench at Osprey Overlook Park be dedicated in her name. Mr. Schneider read the letter of request from Mr. Lang:

Dear Mayor Hedlund,

I am a longtime East Weymouth resident and a very happy to hear about the plans for the Osprey Walkway in my neighborhood. My late wife Barbara and I have enjoyed views of the Back River since we moved here in 1972. Before she passed away last year, Barbara spent hours kayaking the river, and checked daily on the osprey nest, looking after their well-being and that of their offspring. She showed off the nest and the area to her friends, neighbors and 6 grandchildren. The river, Great Esker Park, Bare Cove Park, and nature in general gave her great pleasure, and she would be overjoyed that plans are in place to allow even more people to enjoy the nature world so close to home.

My desire to permanently memorialize Barbara's enjoyment of the area, and to help my family, friends, neighbors, and other visitors remember her, is why I am writing. I am proposing the installation of a bench along the walkway in Barbara's memory. I would like to donate the bench, materials and installation in Barbara's memory. I envision the bench as similar in appearance and construction to other benches in the park, with a bronze plaque in Barbara's memory installed in the backrest of the bench. Its positioning could be adjacent to the walkway with a clear view of the Osprey nests, allowing others to share the pleasure that she had while observing these beautiful animals.

Barbara was a longtime small business owner in Weymouth, running DanceOn dancing school and a Jazzercise franchise for over 30 years. During this time she also volunteered for Boy Scout Troop 19, Healthy Wey community program, Immaculate Conception Church, and taught movement-based physical activity programs for special needs youths for the town. This in addition to raising our 2 children and actively participating in their lives and the lives of her grandchildren for her entire life. Barbara passed away tragically in February 2016 while we were on vacation, and her death has left an emotional void for myself, our family and friends. She had dozens, probably hundreds of friends and acquaintances in Weymouth and the area, many of whom would be glad to hear of something as simple yet fitting as a memorial bench along a beautiful natural walkway.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

David Lang

Mr. Schneider stated two (2) benches have been just installed at the top of Osprey Overlook Park, one of these two benches are being suggested.

Mr. Spain made a MOTION to APPROVE the request for a plaque in honor of Barbara Lang is installed on a bench at Osprey Overlook Park. Ms. Flemer SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Ms. Charlotte Jenkins asked to speak a few words on behalf of her soulmate, Barbara Lang.

Good evening,

I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to speak a little about my dear friend, Barbara Lang.

In pondering what to say tonight, I thought of the many virtues that Barbara held dear to her heart. She was always kind to whomever she met, connecting with them through her infectious smile and outgoing nature.

Barbara and I found such a deep and loving respect for nature right here in our own backyard. Most days we could be found kayaking out on the magnificent Back River; whether it was the first warm day of spring or in the cool night of November to watch a meteor shower.

Barbara could always be found with a stock pile of plastic bags in the bow of her boat, always picking up stray trash that had been thrown about or washed from the shore.

We even had the opportunity to rescue a stray dock and move it to shore so it could be anchored for future use.

We spent many hours checking the osprey nests, watching them feed and care for their young, then going onto reversing falls to investigate any wild life that may be resting there.

We so often remarked that a few hours on the Back River was like a weeks' vacation without spending a lot of money. In retrospect it seems we only had one word in our vocabulary.... WOW! We were always impressed by its beauty and tranquility.

A bench in Barbara's memory would just seem so appropriate overlooking the place she so loved to visit.

Thank you.

Request by Brenda Kelly for a memorial bench in memory of her daughter Jill who was an active student and volunteer at Great Esker Park.

Mr. Steve Reilly and Mr. Eric Schneider stated that they were contacted by Brenda Kelly with a request to donate a bench at Great Esker Park along with scholarships to camp at Great Esker for children who cannot afford to attend camp.

Mr. Schneider stated he and Mr. Reilly are meeting with the mayor's office to organize the stylizing and standardization approach to ordering benches going forward.

The request from Brenda Kelly:

Hi Eric, thank you for reaching out... I left you a voicemail earlier as I have a few questions, can you please explain what a formal request consists of. When I contacted Steve, I explained to him that our family was hoping to donate a bench and, to also donate scholarships to Esker in memory of my daughter who recently passed away.

My daughter Jill started at Esker Park as a camper at 5 years old, and she loved it from the very first day and never left. She attended Esker when Mike Doyle was still a counsellor at the Camp and, George Clarke at that time was primarily in charge. She threw herself into Esker, the mud walks, the stories of Aunt Molly's Pond and boy Scout Bridge (built by Brian Downey – who attended and, was a counsellor at Esker with Jill in their later years.) Jill's happiest times

were at Esker and it was at Esker where she developed her love for the outdoors. Later in life Jill would go on to spend her junior year of high school at the BUMP Program at Woods Hole with Boston University Academy for High School, and was the Harvard Book Prize Recipient, she went on to receive a full four year scholarship to Stanford University and was also a Town of Weymouth Scholarship recipient. Jill worked with Mike, George, Carl, Carol and a host of others at Esker and at the recreation department. She also volunteered for the juvenile diabetes foundation and worked with the Elderly at the Colonial Nursing home in Weymouth.

She played Weymouth Girls Soccer and Weymouth Youth Baseball she was one the first two girls to play Babe Ruth baseball for the Town. She started out at Pingree School for Kindergarten, Saint Francis Xavier for grammar school, until she received a scholarship starting at 8th Grade to Boston University Academy. Her love of science, which she learned at Esker, played a huge part in her applying to BUA and the experiences she had. She worked very hard doing research on the Osprey for Mike Doyle at the time when they were planting the Osprey poles project. Esker was her love, she winter camped at Esker, every pot and pan that I owned ended up at the campground of Esker and it set a foundation for her future.

So just to clarify, we were not requesting that the Town provide or pay for a bench; my family and I were hoping to donate it along with scholarships for children who cannot afford to attend Esker.

With warm regards,

Brenda Kelly

Mr. Spain asked is there a specific location requested for the placement of the bench. Mr. Reilly stated he can provide additional details at a future meeting.

Mr. Spain made a MOTION to take this REQUEST UNDER ADVISEMENT until more exact details are provided by staff. Ms. Anderson SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Request by Kate Thornton for a memorial bench at the new playground in Gifford Park in memory of Cooper Richards

Mr. Reilly spoke on behalf of the family and read his memo to the mayor:

To Mayor Hedlund:

I am forwarding this request on behalf of Kate Thornton. Kate had originally requested to place a sign on the island at the intersection of Pond Street and Thicket Street in memory of Cooper Richards. Sadly, Cooper had passed away earlier this year at a very young age after a lengthy battle with GM-1, Gangliosidosis.

At that particular island there is a sign and it's already dedicated, Kate has requested that a bench with a plaque be placed in Cooper's memory at the new playground in Gifford Park. Cooper's parents Kelly and Michael live on Thicket Street and Kate felt this would be an ideal location.

Funds for this memorial bench may be difficult, as fundraising efforts have been concentrated towards research to find a cure for GM-1 as well as offsetting the medical bills the Richards had incurred during Cooper's illness. Any relief the Town could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for considering this request.

Stephen Reilly

Mr. Schneider stated the family has requested that the town assist in the cost of providing a bench at Gifford Park in honor of Cooper Richards who sadly lost his life after a lengthy battle with GM-1, Gangliosidosis. Mr. Reilly stated currently the park lends itself to having the need for an additional bench.

Chairman Burke stated this is a slippery slope, providing for one but not another. This is his only concern with this request.

Mr. Schneider stated perhaps the committee should table this request and staff can discuss the matter with the mayor on Thursday at their meeting, there they can discuss what to do when someone makes a request but cannot afford the bench.

Mr. Spain made a MOTION to TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING. Ms. Flemer SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Request by the Weymouth Recreation Department to dedicate new basketball court to long time employee Carl Powers

Mr. Reilly read his email for the record:

I am forwarding this request on behalf of the Weymouth Recreation department. As you are aware, the Weymouth Recreation Department suffered an incredible loss last summer with the passing of Carl Powers. Carl was a huge part of the department for many years. His career originally began back in the early 1970's. Carl was an integral part of the program with his easy disposition and attentive nature and his involvement in Recreation and the Town of Weymouth has touched the lives of generations of people.

Carl was an avid sports fan and truly loved all of Boston's sports teams. Each morning in the office, Carl would give his recap of the previous night's games – Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics or Bruins. He loved them all! Carl would usually get most animated when talking about the Celtics. He definitely was not a fan of the modern game and certainly preferred the Larry Bird

era. To quote Carl, "they don't pay attention to the fundamentals anymore! And what's with travelling – doesn't anyone call travelling anymore?! They're taking 4 or 5 steps ALL the time!"

It is with this in mind, that I request that the Town of Weymouth consider dedication of the new basketball court at George Lane Beach in memory of Carl Powers. The beach has been the location for a lot of our Recreation programs and activities and with Carl's love of basketball, this court is an ideal location to recognize Carl and all he meant to the department and to the Town.

Thank you for considering this request.

Mr. Reilly stated it will be a simple sign and dedication.

Chairman Burke asked the committee for comments on the request.

Mr. Spain stated he is a member of the Carl Powers fan club. Ms. Anderson stated this is what I think the Memorial Committee's job should be.

Mr. Lacey stated Carl Powers was a terrific guy. Mr. Lacey stated my daughter Bridget worked for him for many years. He taught her a number of things about leadership, life and how to treat people. He was humble and worked a tremendous amount of hours and contributed significantly to our community. Children and adults remember him fondly.

Mr. Spain made a MOTION to APPROVE the request to dedicate basketball court at Lane Beach for Carl Powers. Mr. Lacey SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Request by Jean Zaleski for a flowering tree and memorial plaque in the park off of Century Road in honor of Bailey Putnam

Ms. Flemer made a MOTION to TABLE TO NEXT MEETING. Mr. McCloskey SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Memorial Committee is to be held on July 10, 2017 at 6:00PM.

Mr. McCloskey asked does the Memorial Committee need standards, criteria or a threshold for benches and street corners. The committee discussed. Mr. Schneider stated he will review this question with Mayor Hedlund and report back to the committee.

Chairman Burke suggested the committee look into the idea of looking at a few long streets such as Commercial Street and Green Street and taking all the small streets that cross those long streets and name each and every street corner (on both sides) each for a different fallen veteran. To be discussed more at the next meeting.

Chairman Burke suggested all members think about selecting a new Chairman before the next meeting because he will be stepping down at the next meeting. Chairman Burke does not wish to leave the committee but does want to relinquish the role of Chairman.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Spain made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 6:55PM. Mr. Lacey SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: _____


Frank Burke, Chairman

Dated: _____

