

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Weymouth Town Hall – 3rd Floor Conference Room
April 11, 2012

The Memorial Committee of the Town of Weymouth held a public meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at Weymouth Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Weymouth, MA.

Present: Ed Walker, Chairman
Keith Spain, Mayor's Appointee
James Clarke, Director of Planning & Community Development
Joan Anderson, Vice Chairman
Jeff Bina, Director of Public Works

ALSO PRESENT: Karen Harrington
Beatrice Blanchard
Mike Crowley
Ray Nash

Recording Secretary: Christine Callbeck

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

MINUTES

Chairman Walker stated the committee will delay voting on the minutes; Mr. Clarke will e-mail minutes to all members tomorrow.

REQUEST FOR DEDICATION AT SEAWALL ON FORT POINT ROAD FOR DONALD BLANCHARD

Ms. Karen Harrington thanked the committee for listening to her request for a dedication for her father, Donald Blanchard. Mr. Blanchard has been a resident of Weymouth for 86 years as of today. Ms. Harrington read her letter to the committee:

Thank you for your time to hear my request for this dedication for Donald Blanchard by restoring the seawall and displaying a dedication plaque at the Fore River beach.

Donald Blanchard has been a resident and contributor to North Weymouth history for 86 years and has also served in the U.S. Navy due to his passion for the ocean and service for his country.

Donald Blanchard enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating from Weymouth High School.

His basic training started in Sampson, New York where he enrolled in the Gunnery School.

He was assigned to gunnery ship duty as the first class gunnery officer on the ship Gunnery GS-1. This ship was built in Boston and he was on the inauguration voyage of this vessel.

The Gunnery GS-1 was specially made to travel to U.S. Ports through the Atlantic, Pacific Ocean and the Panama Canal. On the inaugural mission his role was to detect enemy subs by setting depth charges off the rear of the ship.

To aid in their mission they received messages from Washington, D.C. as to where enemy subs were detected from air.

The East Coast Theater as their mission was called carried their patrol through Panama and the Pacific going to Canada on both coasts.

After the mission ended Mr. Blanchard transferred to Shell Beach, Louisiana in charge of a line of guns ranging from a hand pistol to 8" large cannon.

While stationed there for 1 year he taught an advanced school of gun handling with direction from Washington, D.C. to troops from Russia, France and England.

After his year of service there he was transferred to a larger ship to command a crew across the Pacific to properly handle the guns including assembly and disassembly and clearing the gun for reuse.

While in the Pacific Mr. Blanchard went to Mexico in a control gun boat to instruct troops of proper gun handling.

Mr. Blanchard was then sent to Washington State to go aboard a sub to be familiar with the sub patrol and the escorted U.S. Subs in the Pacific.

He was then transferred to Oregon on a gunnery line and worked there until discharge from the service after 2 1/2 years.

After moving from Johnson Road where he lived with his family he moved to Sea Street where he became part of North Weymouth history.

While excavating his property for the house that he built there he found a historical bronze coin dated 1697 which was found to be from an Indian settlement there. He was interviewed by Jack Frost and G. Stinson Lord for the Weymouth Historical Book-Two-Forts-To-Destiny where he received recognition for this coin.

The property next to his house was found to have skeletons of Indian tribes that had settled in the area hundreds of years ago making the property very historic.

Donald Blanchard has been a supporter of the Wessagusset Indian Memorial Park next to his home with donations and hosting receptions for the dedication and anniversaries of the park.

I trust that these accomplishments and contributions to North Weymouth history and Mr. Blanchard's service to the country would confirm that he deserves this dedication.

Thank you,

Karen Harrington

Mr. Spain asked does Mr. Blanchard still live in the house. Ms. Harrington stated yes.

Mr. Clarke asked Ms. Harrington to please explain why request dedication at seawall and Fort Point Road area. Ms. Harrington stated her father has always loved the ocean and always had a boat. He spent all of his life at the ocean in North Weymouth. Ms. Harrington stated their family would be happy if the town would recognize her father with a plaque at the street sign or on the seawall.

Mr. Bina stated it doesn't make sense to put the plaque on the seawall because over time the seawall will become deteriorated.

Mr. Spain stated he would like to go and take a look at the exact area being requested and see what makes the most sense where to place the plaque.

Mr. Clarke made a MOTION to TAKE THE REQUEST UNDER ADVISEMENT and look at the area, make sure it's a good area to put up a pole and a sign. Chairman Walker SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REQUEST TO NAME HARBORMASTER BOAT FOR CECIL EVANS, FIRST HARBORMASTER

Mr. Crowley stated that Cecil Evans was the first harbormaster in Weymouth. Mr. Evans was born with what was thought to be polio; a huge disability. He was not able to walk properly or get around very well at all. Mr. Evans loved the ocean but could not swim; he liked to help people very much. He graduated from Weymouth High School in 1932. In 1947 he was able to persuade the town selectmen that he could be the harbormaster. He worked for 20 years as the harbormaster. Frank Fryer said Mr. Evans managed to overcome his handicap and be a special person in North Weymouth.

Mr. Crowley stated that just before this meeting started he found out that the new harbormaster boat has already been named. Mr. Crowley stated he has no idea who named the boat or was given the permission to name the boat; however he feels very strongly that due to the lifelong dedication to the waterfront and the town that this new boat should be renamed in Cecil Evans' honor.

Chairman Walker asked how long Cecil Evans was the harbormaster. Mr. Crowley stated 20 years, and then Tom Smith took his place. Mr. Evans died on February 21, 1957. Mr. Spain asked if Mr. Crowley knew Mr. Evans personally. Mr. Crowley stated no, he never met the man, the information about Mr. Evans just came to Mr. Crowley and he feels it is an important part of the town's history.

Mr. Ray Nash stated that Mr. Evans was not the first harbormaster for the Town of Weymouth, Tony Vieta was. Mr. Nash stated he was asked to attend this meeting tonight on behalf of Paul Milone, the current Harbormaster for the Town of Weymouth. Mr. Crowley asked Mr. Nash who has the authority to name the new boat. Mr. Nash stated he guesses that Mr. Milone does. Mr. Bina asked Mr. Clarke does the Memorial Committee have jurisdiction to name boats. Mr. Clarke stated he doesn't know why not.

Mr. Clarke stated that he spoke with Mr. Milone; Mr. Milone stated he was sending Mr. Nash in his place to the meeting tonight and that the boat is already named. Mr. Clarke stated that Mayor Kay has final authority for naming any vehicle or vessel that is owned by the Town of Weymouth. Mr. Clarke stated if the Memorial Committee has a recommendation they should forward it to Mayor Kay, she has the final call on the name of the boat.

Mr. Crowley stated that he strongly feels that Cecil Evans should be honored. Mr. Clarke stated that he is very impressed with Mr. Evans' overcoming his handicap and how he was in support role at the ocean. Mr. Crowley stated Mr. Evans formed the harbormaster position. He fought to get this whole job up and running in the town.

Mr. Spain made a MOTION to RENAME THE NEW HARBORMASTER BOAT AFTER CECIL B. EVANS. Mr. Clarke SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

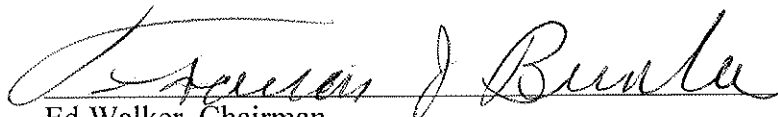
Mr. Clarke stated that Mayor Kay will take care of this matter from here. Mayor Kay will speak with Mr. Milone, Harbormaster.

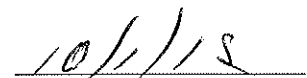
Next Meeting

Mr. Clarke stated he would like the committee to meet next month, he will be in contact.

Adjournment

There being no further business Mr. Clarke made a MOTION to ADJOURN and the MOTION was SECONDED by Mr. Spain. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to ADJOURN at 8:00pm.


Ed Walker, Chairman


Date