

WEYMOUTH MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Weymouth Town Hall - Kelly Room

April 9th, 2013 Meeting

PRESENT: Frank Burke/Chairman, Keith Spain/Mayor's Appointee, Joan Anderson, Vice Chairman/Library Representative, Jeff Bina/DPW and Jim Clarke/Director of Planning and Community Development

ABSENT: Ed Walker, Chairman/Historical Commission, Patrick O'Connor/Town Councilor, Steve McCloskey, and Sean Guilfoyle, Chairman/School Committee

ALSO PRESENT: Kevin Clark, brother of Robert Francis Clark - Nominee for Memorial Designation

Chairman Burke called the April 9th, 2013 meeting of the Memorial Committee to order at 7:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2012 MINUTES

As all members had not reviewed the minutes of the November 5th, 2012 meeting - it was agreed to table approval of these minutes until their next meeting.

Request to name corner of Pleasant and Water Streets for Robert Francis Clark, Jr.

At this point Chairman Burke invited Mr. Kevin Clark to address the Board on his brother Robert Francis Clark, Jr.'s behalf.

Mr. Clark then gave a brief history of his brother's life first noting that he grew up in Weymouth and graduated from Weymouth North, adding that both his parents/grandparents also graduated from Weymouth High School. Kevin's brother, Army Ranger Robert Francis Clark, Jr. served two missions in Viet Nam for the Army's Special Forces Group. He earned his Jump Wings in 1969 was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. His service to our country began in Washington DC, where he was assigned to guard key government buildings. In 1970, as part of the 101st Airborne Division he was deployed to Viet Nam. During his service to our country he received various awards, which included The Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for valor, the Air Medal and The Purple Heart for his courageous service. Robert, also known as 'Butchy', graduated from the elite 5th Special Forces Group MACV Recondo School - becoming a team leader and adviser in missions he served in Viet Nam.

Mr. Clark wanted members to know that his dad is currently residing in a nursing home in Arizona, adding that he would be thrilled to be told that his son Robert received this prestigious designation commenting that it would be very meaningful to him at this point in his life - and well as to his mother.

(Mr. Bina arrived)

Mr. Clarke referred to Mr. Clark's suggestion about naming the intersection of Pleasant and Water Streets after his brother Robert, informing him that this intersection has been already been named for a serviceman by the name of DiLorenzo.

Mr. Kevin Clark then suggested placing the sign/designation across the street informing members that was where his business was located, but quickly added he would be appreciative of whatever could be done for his brother Robert.

Chairman Burke asked if he had another intersection location that might fit and Kevin Clark suggested Commercial and Water Streets (across from Godin's by the cleaners).

Mr. Spain asked Mr. Clark what he felt would be the location with the best fit and he responded 'in Lower Square, where we grew up'.

Mr. Spain suggested the corner of Raymond Street.

Jim Clarke commented that he felt Robert Francis Clark was deserving of the designation - but at this point selecting the most appropriate location was his main concern. He suggested the corner of Pleasant Street and Raymond Street.

Kevin Clark was delighted, commenting 'that is within sight of my home'.

Members discussed the sign and its cost.

Mr. Spain stated that when the Town is responsible for the style of the sign it is pretty generic.

Mr. Clark replied that his family would be happy to pay the difference for a bronze sign (usually a 1 ½ galvanized pipe).

Mr. Spain said it would be similar to the DiLorenzo sign.

Mr. Bina stated that the DPW would be putting up the post (for the sign).

Kevin Clark asked about the cost.

Chairman Burke said he would ask Annemarie Kelly Tucci. He wanted to clarify that the Committee will only be making their recommendation to Mayor Kay who ultimately will be responsible for the final decision. He explained that a black and white sign could be put up quickly, then they could possibly change it and upgrade it at a future date (to the bronze sign). He added that if the family would like a military ceremony this could be arranged through the Veteran's office.

Kevin Clark asked about Agent Orange and Chairman Burke told him that they could speak more about this subject off-line.

Mr. Spain moved to approve a sign for Robert Francis Clark, Jr. to be placed at the corner of Raymond and Pleasant Streets.

Mr. Clarke seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Chairman Burke informed Mr. Clark that next step calls for the Memorial Committee to send along their recommendation to Mayor Kay for her approval.

Jim Clarke explained to Mr. Clark that he would probably hear the Mayor's decision by next week, but quickly added she was pretty busy right now.

Kevin Clark said that he would speak further with Mr. Bina about the brass plate.

Status of Hollis and Pond Street Sign

Mr. Bina reported that this sign went back up today.

(File Note: The sign was for Harold B. Klingman)

Other Business

Chairman Burke informed members that he received a request from the Town Council's Assistant Diane Hachey - for the Memorial Committee to reconsider the request for a memorial sign for Town Councilor Paul Leary (deceased). He commented to the members that since Mr. Leary already has a room named after him at Town Hall as well as his portrait hanging in the Town Council chambers - the Committee felt he has been suitably honored. He said that even with this explanation, Ms. Hachey would still like reconsideration.

Mr. Spain asked if there was a particular location that was being requested.

Mr. Clarke wanted to know if the Memorial Committee had previously responded to this request in writing and Chairman Burke did not know.

Mr. Clarke felt that having a room at Town Hall named after you was greater honor/recognition, pointing out that at this point there were only a few rooms in Town Hall that have been named in honor of those that have served the Town; i. e., Town Solicitor Frank Kelly, John Field (the original Appropriation Committee Room) and Franklin Fryer (Town Clerk and Selectman).

Mr. Clarke went on to refer to past town official/Planning Board member, Steve Rennie (deceased), has a park named for him, as well as a street (which was done by the developer of the property).

Mr. Spain commented that they were having pretty much the same discussion tonight as they had the last time this request was before them, adding he felt what has been done at Town Hall for Mr. Leary was more appropriate.

Chairman Burke stated that the Town Council has stopped the practice of hanging ex-chairman's portraits in the Chamber, pointing out that his picture will be the only one that will hang there.

Mr. Clarke agreed with Mr. Spain, stating that they reached the same conclusion as in the past.

Chairman Burke stated that the past decision would stand - with no motion to change. He said he would write the response to Ms. Hachey, but would copy the members before he sent it out.

Chairman Burke went on to say that a lot of people have passed who did a lot for the Town, commenting there are not enough places to name something for everyone.

Chairman Burke went on to say that he and Jim Clarke have met and spoke about the creation of a plaque that would hold many names (list). This would be another way to acknowledge volunteers serving the Town. They might possibly propose that to the Mayor. He said that he knows the Town likes to name street corners after the military.

Mr. Clarke suggested that they could combine this memorial designation with the Annual Town Meeting - at which time they would acknowledge any approved names. He wanted to point out that the person/nominee would not have to be deceased. He compared it to the Chester Kevitt Award (first Chairman of the Weymouth Historical Commission), adding that Mayor Kay presently makes the Chester Kevitt Awards in conjunction with the Historical Commission.

Mr. Clarke told members that about 3 weeks ago a Hamilton School Parent Teachers Council person asked about a name for the library, but the School Committee/Parent Teacher Council were not really in favor of doing this. They haven't heard anymore since then.

Chairman Burke said they could include a scholarship recipient - adding this could be discussed further with Sean Guilfoyle, Chairman/School Committee.

Ms. Spain commented that he had some concerns about that. He then asked about the status of Al Perrette's request.

Mr. Spain reminded members that this matter was on last meeting's agenda.

Chairman Burke said the person, Robert A. Lovering, was a Rockland Veteran who lived in Weymouth, adding that he was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor - and that the request was taken under advisement. He said they will discuss this further at their next meeting and he would let Al Perrette know.

Mr. Clarke commented that Mayor Kay makes the notifications.

Chairman Burke asked if they are also supposed to forward negative recommendations to the Mayor and Mr. Clarke replied 'yes'. He added that he would also like to see an Update from the School Department on Haviland re. (2) Merchant Marines (plaque on the wall) - and would like this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Spain said he recalled that Sean Guilfoyle was supposed to look into that.

Chairman Burke informed the Committee that he received a letter from Sen. Hedlund re. funding.

Mr. Bina told members that on September 1st it should be ready.

Next Meeting Date

Chairman said that he was looking at the next meeting taking place in mid-late May.

Adjournment

Mr. Spain moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Mr. Clarke seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Respectfully submitted,
Susan DeChristoforo
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Frank Burke, Chairman

Date