

MINUTES OF THE
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEYMOUTH TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

PRESENT: Frank Burke, Chairman
Joan Anderson, Vice Chairman
Keith Spain
Steve McCloskey
Patrick O'Connor, Councilor-at-Large
Jim Clarke, Planning Director

ABSENT: Ed Walker
Sean Guilfoyle

Recording Secretary: Lee Hultin

The chairman called the Memorial Committee meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Town Council Chambers, 75 Middle Street, Weymouth, Ma 02189.

Request to create a memorial for Fire Chief James Stevens at Brewster and Gilmore Road

Appearing before the Memorial Committee with this request was Angel Montanez of Brewster Road. Mr. Montanez stated that he owns 4 houses on Brewster Road. The area he is requesting is town owned property at the end of the street by the seawall. This area is used for recreational activities such as swimming, fishing and enjoying the seawall by local neighbors. Some of the neighbors are encroaching upon this area with their vehicles and he believes a memorial would be the best use for this area.

Mr. Montanez read several letters of support into the record from Brian Johnson, Kelly Rose, David Dole and Carol Buckley, daughter of James Stevens. He also stated that he tried to go through Mike Molisse and Jeff Bina to get the land into the adopt-a-green program but that was unsuccessful. All of these letters were handed into Chairman Burke.

Mr. Clarke acknowledged that all the letters seems to be very similar. Mr. Montanez stated that they all copied from the same one so they would be consistent.

Mr. Montanez stated that access to the space is the right of all the neighbors in the area and they are in full support of the location and the memorial.

Mr. Montanez also stated that Chief Stark supports this and has offered to provide a stone.

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Mr. Spain questioned exactly where the location is and it was stated it's a triangle area at the end of Brewster Road. He also asked if the seawall is part of the seawall repair program that is going on and it was stated no.

Public Comments:

John Mutch, 68 Gilmore Road – He stated that in 1999 when the town accepted the street, they paved it and it had many issues and didn't meet the criteria for acceptance. The street is only 17 feet wide and has several houses with no frontage or driveways. Creating this memorial in this location would be a great impact on the neighbors as far as parking goes. The green area is part of the street that wasn't paved in the first place. Residents mow it and keep it clean, but it is being utilized as parking because there isn't any other place to park.

Mark Anderson, 59 Brewster Road – He lives across from the area. It is very quiet and a beautiful area. The residents swim, fish and enjoy sitting on the seawall. He works for the DCR and is very familiar with green space. He stated Mr. Montanez has a large trailer parked there with weeds growing through it. He would like to see it cleaned up. He supports the idea of a memorial for James Stevens but is not sure this is the best place for it. Clearly something needs to be done with the area.

George Mutch, Sr. – He is a retired Fire Chief and doesn't believe this is about a memorial for James Stevens but a fight that Angel Montanez has with his neighbors.

Brian Wilkins, 56 Gilmore Road – In the winter the snow is an issue and there is a large green area across from his house that might be a better location for the memorial. The town uses the proposed area for snow removal storage. He supports the memorial just not in the proposed location.

Chairman Burke stated that he will talk to the family and consider the location. The commission does not have the final say, they only make recommendations to Mayor Sue Kay who approves them.

George Mutch, Jr. – 213 North Street, His brother lives at 68 Gilmore Road and the area is very tight with small streets. This proposal is self-serving and doesn't serve all the neighbors. Parking is a huge issue and usually works well amongst the neighbors.

Angel Montanez stated that the property on the right side of the road along Gilmore Road used to be a marsh that has been filled in. Parking is a problem in the area. If it's going to be used for parking then he is going to park his trailer, boat and dock there too. He tried to resolve this by going through the Adopt-a-Green program but Mike Molisse backed off and didn't support it. The Mutch's rent and need space for their tenants to park. Everyone in the town has snow problems and need to deal with it. He tried to stop the parking by going through the Police and Fire Departments, but they were told to back off.

Mr. Mutch stated that the house they rent is a one bedroom home that is rented to a 50 year old couple. Mr. Montanez has clearly stated tonight that if he can't get what he wants, then he will

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use all the space himself. Resident parking along the street happens all over town, especially in North Weymouth where the homes are closer together.

Mr. Spain stated that even if they approve this memorial location it doesn't take up much space and the residents will still be able to park there, therefore this dispute will continue.

Mr. Clarke asked if the cars being parked come and go as opposed to the trailer always staying there and it was stated yes.

Mr. Clarke stated that they have never had a controversial issue come before them. It is unfortunate that this committee has been involved and that this issue should be resolved somewhere else.

Councilor O'Connor stated that Mr. Stevens is a very worthy candidate for this memorial but this location is far too controversial. He would like to see the minutes forwarded to Mayor Sue Kay for maintenance of this area.

Councilor O'Connor made a motion to take this issue under advisement and was seconded by Mr. Spain.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

UPDATES

Mr. Clarke stated that they haven't heard from Sean Guilfoyle on the Academy Avenue Merchant issue and looks forward to his update at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clarke made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm and was seconded by Patrick O'Connor.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:

Lee Hultin
Recording Secretary

Approved: 
Signature

8/12/14
Date