Minutes

Special Beautification Committee Meeting

January 26, 2023

Zoom at noon

Attending: Karin Giannitti, Pat Glass, Jim Jamieson, Ellen Crown, Ryan Gussen, Claudia Hahn

Guests: Thomas Tavella, Ed Hutchins, Nancy Thiel, Julie Hanselmann Davies, Karin Feingold

Opening: Nancy provided schedule of meeting; to discuss the Veterans Memorial Design before going to the Board of Selectman then the Historic District Commission.

Tom Tavella discussed meeting with Penn Globe (Branford CT) for retro fitting and restoring the 7 existing luminaires from the walkway in front of Town Hall. Penn to make luminaires as compatible with “dark skies” as they can. Penn offers a temporary lighting program. Once luminaires are received, roughly two-week turnaround time.

Tom went over construction drawings.

Karin Feingold discussed plant selections for various areas of the Town Green. She is planning a 70:30 native to non-native ratio. The proposed Veterans Memorial is to be backed with a mixed evergreen border. The proposed wildflower meadow can be used as a learning space via informative panels. Plants will require temporary irrigation for roughly 6 months in order to establish.

Ellen Crown proposed adding a new evergreen tree to function as a “Christmas” tree for a future tree lighting ceremony, closer to town green center, possibly by Norfield Road to the northeast. Hutch mentioned how well the Tree Lighting went this year and that the current location worked.

Julie Hanselmann Davies presented the proposed Veterans Memorial design. She showed models from clay of the stones grouped as a still life arrangement. There will be new Boulders added to represent soldiers from the Continentl Army, the Civil WarThere will be a new Dedication marker to be used for a speaker podium and place to hang a wreath. Julie reviewed possible ceremony choreography. Kevin is researching names of Veterans from Iraq and Afganistan conflicts and will coordinate with the Marketing Committee and Town Hall for public assistance.

The existing Addendum Plaque is not typical in a Memorial design. It is proposed to be on display at Town Hall for a time and then donated to the Historical Society. Ellen sparked discussion on the taller “legacy” boulder, whether it looked appropriate or not… Some re-shaping might be a good way to keep it in the plan. Julie’s presentation was well received and well done.

Claudia asked for a motion to approve Julie’s design. Karin Giannitti moved to approve, Ryan Gussen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, including Ed Hutchins from the Veterans Committee.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Gussen