

Assessment of Dunstable's Memorials 2014

Contents:

Introduction

I. Town Hall Memorials

II. Bandstand Benches

III. Millstone

IV. Vernon English Square

V. Watering Trough

VI. Robert Rockwell Square

VII. POW Square

VIII. Jack DeBarbian Monument Bridge

IX. Archer Davis (Town Center Sign)

X. Dunstable Town Signs (Town Limits)

XI. Merle Page

XII. Dale Wilkins Memorial

XIII. Ed Fahy Memorial

XIV. Larter Field and Memorials

XV. Memorial Site Maintenance

XVI. Additional Monuments or Squares

XVII. Memorial Committee Recommendations

Introduction

The committee members assigned by the Dunstable Selectmen were Carol Bacon, Alan Chaney, Anne Davis, Joe Dean, Bob Kennedy, and Dana Metzler. We were asked to "provide the town with an assessment of each existing memorial site throughout the town as to its design, content, historical significance, and / or intended purpose." We surveyed all of the existing town monuments and have provided a brief summary and recommendations for each.

We have also provided a list of recommendations for the care of the monuments and any new potential additions.

I. Town Hall Memorials

The Town Hall Memorials are located at the front of the Town Hall on Main Street and consist of six memorials for the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. The flagpole is located in the center of the monuments in the middle of a bricked in area to allow for ease of viewing. All of the monuments have the names of those Dunstable residents who participated in the wars except the Vietnam, Korean, and Revolutionary wars. It is the recommendation of this committee to have the names of those individuals who were residents of this town at the time of their enlistment placed on these monuments.



II. Bandstand Benches

The six Bandstand Benches are across from the Town Hall and currently surround the bandstand. The stone benches were donated by the families of those to be remembered. They currently include; Mary P. Pelletier, Richard C. Bacon, George R. McGovern Sr., Charles E. Goss, Arthur I. Drew, and Frank and Maria Elena Palumbo. This committee recommends these benches be moved possibly to the side of the Common near the light pole, or the tree area at the corner of the driveway towards Swallow School. This would allow a better viewing opportunity for the activities taking place on the bandstand. Currently they are too close and as a result are not used. Additionally if a Dunstable Memorial Park is built we recommend that they be moved there. We also recommend that no more benches be added.



III. Millstone

The Millstone is also located across from the Town Hall close to Main Street. The Millstone is not dedicated to anyone in particular, but it does represent the farming roots of this town. It was dug up in front of the church on town property. It currently has a flower bed around it and this committee recommends that any flowers or bushes that are planted there do not obscure it as the current rose bush does.



IV. Vernon English Square

The Vernon English Square is located on the corner of Pleasant Street and Brook Street.



This monument is hardly ever seen as it is quite small and easily missed. Vernon English was a Korean War Veteran. Vernon English (19 Feb 1932-8 Jun 1951) was son of William and Nina English. Sgt. English was a Cannoneer for the 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. He was taken prisoner on 13 Feb 1951 and died in prison camp 8 Jun 1951, in Korea. He was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal; Korean Service Medal; United Nations Service Medal; Nation Defense Service Medal; Korean Presidential Unit Citation and Republic of Korea War Service Medal. He is buried in Central Cemetery. This committee recommends that if a Dunstable Memorial Park is built it be moved there.

V. Watering Trough

The Watering Trough is at the triangle at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Main Street.



Bostonian Jonas H. French, a descendant Dunstable's French family, donated the Jonas French Memorial Fountain, in 1888 as a public watering place. Water was piped to the fountain from a well on Chaney Hill. On November 19, 1887 Jonas French wrote, "I propose to present the town with a granite watering trough to be located in the square at the middle of town as it is used to be termed, upon the condition that the town or other parties will keep it supplied with water during such season of the year as it would generally be required. I will pay all of the expense if only deserving the water to be brought to the site, my idea is to have a trough for oxen and a higher

one for horses." Made of granite, in the classical style, the monument features multiple drinking troughs at varying heights for horse, oxen, man and dog. This is perhaps the most unusual feature of the trough and enhances the monument's visual qualities. Today it is a visual anchor for Dunstable residents who celebrate the continuity of the town's agricultural roots. The granite fountain occupies a prominent place at the center of the intersection of Main and Pleasant Streets. Mr. French worked for a relative in the distilling business in the 1850s before serving in the army during the Civil War. He operated a granite quarry in Gloucester during the second half of the 19th century. In 2004 a speeding automobile damaged the monument. The trough was twisted, unseated from its original base and the mortar were severely damaged and missing in sections. The following year the monument was resealed and raised up slightly. The Dunstable Historical Commission had noted that over the years it had sunk down so the lowest drinking bowl was hardly visible. The work was completed by Bill Egan of Billerica Massachusetts. Money for the repair was secured through CPA funding. The monument committee visited the watering trough on October 12, 2013 and noted that the trough had areas of loose and missing mortar. The committee was in agreement that the trough would benefit from further repointing, ensuring the revered monument's protection.

VI. Robert Rockwell Memorial

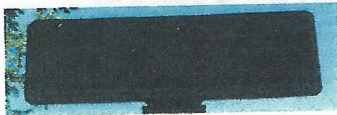
The Robert Rockwell Square is just across the street from the Watering Trough on Main Street. There is only a sign that has badly faded and is in need of replacement. This committee recommends that it be replaced to look like the original sign. Robert Rockwell of Dunstable was a World War II paratrooper who during the Normandy Invasion was injured and captured by the Germans. He later died in a German field hospital. The sign is currently across from the Watering Trough next to the road and is not the original. During the site visits members of the

committee were interested in locating the original sign with the hope that the older one might be in better shape or easily restored. Additionally it probably should be moved to the triangle on the corner so it would receive more visibility.



VII. POW Square

The POW Square is a triangle located at the intersection of High Street and Thorndike Street. The monument was funded by the Dumont family in honor of Gerald J Dumont who was a POW during WWII when he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge by the Germans. This square and monument is currently very well maintained by the Dumont family. This committee does not recommend any changes to this area.

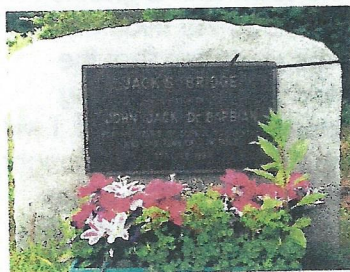


VIII. Jack DeBarbian Monument Bridge

The Jack DeBarbian Monument Bridge crosses over Salmon Brook on Pleasant Street.

John "Jack" DeBarbian was born Sept 1, 1908 in what was part of the old Ottoman Empire /eastern Turkey, what is now Armenia. He entered the US in 1912 with his parents and brother and lived in Lowell before moving to Dunstable about 1930. He boarded with the Upton Family until he entered the Army in 1942. He was in the Army from 4 Mar 1942 - 1 Sep 1945. He was discharged as Tech 5. He ran a successful gas station on Pleasant Street at Salmon Brook for about 40 years. He died 23 Jul 1990, and is buried in Central Cemetery. This committee recommends there be a small parking area there so people can stop to enjoy the view of the

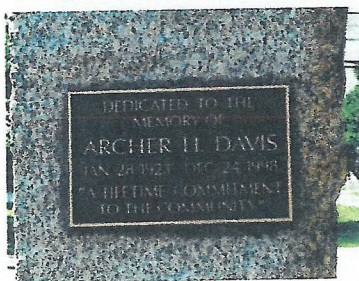
lower Massapoag Pond.



IX. Archer Davis (Town Center Sign)

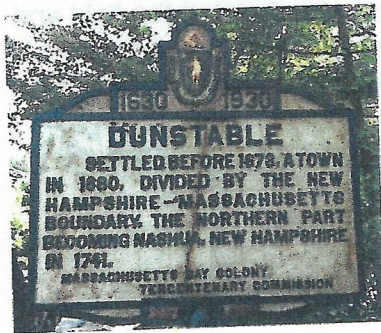
The Archer Davis Memorial is a plaque located on the back of the town center sign post.

There is another one at the Library. It is in memory for his dedication as the town's police chief and constable from the 50s through the 80s. It's current condition is fine and this committee has no recommendations for any changes.



X. Dunstable Town Signs (Town Limits)

Dunstable Town Signs are currently located at the town limits on Rt 113 and in a bad state of repair. This committee recommends the town repair these signs and place one of them in the Town Common area possibly next to the Millstone.



XI. Merle Page

Merle Page was a long-time member of the Water Commission. He was instrumental in the finding and development of the current well-field on Salmon Brook from the Upton family. His memorial is at the entrance to the Water Department property on Main Street. He was married to the former Jean Hampton. He was born in 1922 and died in 1985. This is a very small plaque on a small stone and is almost impossible to see. It is currently overgrown with weeds. This committee recommends this be redone so people who drive by will at least know there is a monument there, or possibly dedicate the new bridge across Salmon Brook to him and have a plaque placed there.



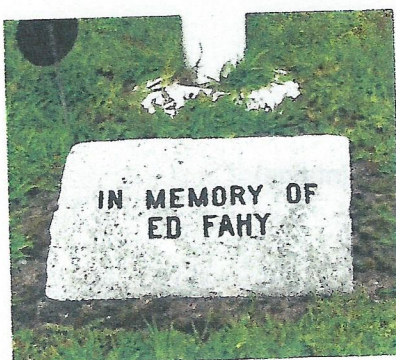
XII. Dale Wilkins Memorial

This memorial is on River Street on town property and paid for by his friends and family. Evidently Mr. Wilkins died from a motor vehicle accident at this site. This committee recommends the removal of of this monument as "roadside memorials" are inappropriate.



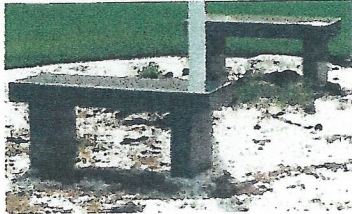
XIII. Ed Fahy Memorial

This memorial is located in front of the Highway Department, next to the flag pole on 113. Ed passed away on 28 September 2006. The monument is currently maintained by the Highway Department and this committee recommends they continue the maintenance. There is also a dedicated ball field in his memory at Larter Field.



XIV. Larter Field and Memorials

Larter Field is located on Groton Street and was dedicated in 1996. It has two memorial benches on either side of the flag pole. One is for Margaret D. Larter, who donated the field and the other is for eight year old Adam Barrows who was killed while riding his bicycle. The field is maintained by the Groton-Dunstable Athletic association and the Parks Department.



Currently, the benches along the outside track are in need of repair.

XV. Memorial Site Maintenance

This committee recommends that all maintenance for the memorials be the responsibility of the Parks Department. There may be two current exceptions to this, the Watering Trough and the POW Square. The Watering Trough is maintained through a trust. The POW Square is currently maintained by the Dumont family. If either of these two situations change, we recommend the Parks Department take over the responsibility. Another alternative might be for various organizations, groups, or businesses in town sponsor their maintenance and as a benefit the town would allow a small sign close to the monument indicating they maintained it.

XVI. Additional Monuments or Squares

Additional memorials might include:

- Dunstable citizens' participation in national events.
- Historical Sites
- Historical Persons
- Historic Events

XVII. Memorial Committee Recommendations

This committee recommends the town establish a standing Memorial Committee that would develop clear guidelines.

- A. Memorials should be placed on public property only.
- B. An established procedure should be followed:
 - Application to a standing Memorial Committee, or lacking this the Board of Selectmen.
 - Application requires the support of appropriate Town Committees, including Memorial Committee/Selectmen, Historic Commission, Parks Commission, and where appropriate, the Veterans Agent, Advisory Committee, any committee controlling the land to be used, or other Town Board.
 - A properly advertised public hearing should be held
- C. Appropriate size, materials, colors, and artistic merit should be evaluated by the committees before permission is granted.
- D. Naturally formed Squares may include:
 - The intersection of Kemp and Groton Street
 - The front of McLoon Farm
 - The intersection of Hollis and River Street
 - High Street Square in the center of town (Garden Club currently maintains)

E. Additional Monument Sites might include:

The property behind the Animal Clinic

The Old Pleasant Street Extension

The open area next to the Dunstable Central Cemetery

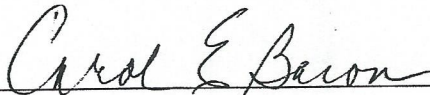
Other sites that might be created by new developments by the Planning Board. These could be intersections created by new developments and, or circles with a cul-de-sac.

Note:

There are a few other minor plaques located at the Town Hall, Fire Station, and Library that this committee did not address as we felt these were outside of the assigned task.

Signed:

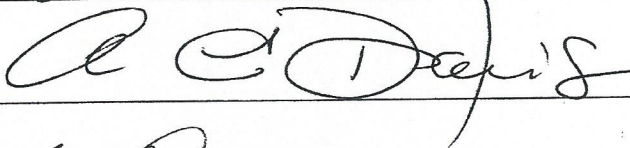
Carol Bacon



Alan Chaney



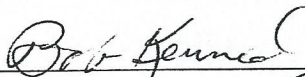
Anne Davis



Joe Dean - Chairman



Bob Kennedy



Dana Metzler

