



OFFICE OF THE MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL, 511 MAIN STREET
DUNSTABLE, MA 01827-1313
978-649-4514

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Approved: **February 12, 2020**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday, January 15, 2020**

Scheduled Agenda Items.

1. Review and approval of November 21, 2019 meeting minutes.
2. Committee Administration Topics
 - A. Membership of the Committee
3. Monument and Memorial Administration
 - A. Relocation of the Robert Rockwell Memorial Sign
 - B. Relocation of the Vernon English monument
4. New Business, as needed.

Meeting Minutes.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attending for the committee: Alan Chaney, Joe Dean, and Philip DeNyse. Not present was Dana Metzler. A quorum was present.
2. The committee reviewed the minutes of November 21, 2019, there were no additions or corrections. The minutes were adopted 3-0 and will be posted to town web site.
3. Committee Administrative Issues.
 - a. Membership of the Committee. The approved bylaw establishes the committee is composed of five members. The committee continues to be in need of an additional member.
4. Monument and Memorial Relocation Discussion.
 - a. The committee members reviewed the attached draft presentation to discuss the details of moving the Rockwell sign and the English monument and sign.
 - b. Rockwell Sign. There was committee consensus the current location of the sign does not afford the public adequate recognition of the memorial. It was agreed the best location to move the sign would be to the small triangle located at Depot and Main Streets, informally referred to as the

Simmons triangle. Rationale for the relocation including being closer to the original Rockwell homestead. Mr. Dean indicated Veterans Services Department would fund the replacement of the pole. Mr. Dean has been in contact the Highway Department to assist with the relocation.

- c. Relocation of the Vernon English monument and sign. The English monument is currently located at the corner of Brook Street and Pleasant Street. It was discussed to relocate the monument to the Kemp Triangle located at the intersection of Kemp Street and Groton Road. This location is closer to the English homestead. Additionally, this location would afford more visibility to passers-by. The site is currently maintained by the local residents. Mr. Dean indicated the Veterans Services Department would fund the replacement of the pole. Mr. Dean has been in contact the Highway Department to assist with the relocation.
 - d. Board of Selectman. Mr. Dean indicated his desire to present the proposed relocation of the Rockwell sign and the English monument and sign at the next Board of Selectmen meeting on January 21, 2020.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled February 12, 2020 at 6PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip J. DeNyse
Memorials and Monuments Committee Recorder

Attachment: Relocation of English & Rockwell Monuments, 15 Jan 2020

1



Relocation of English & Rockwell Monuments


A Presentation for Board of Selectmen

15 January 2020

Monuments and Memorials Committee




2

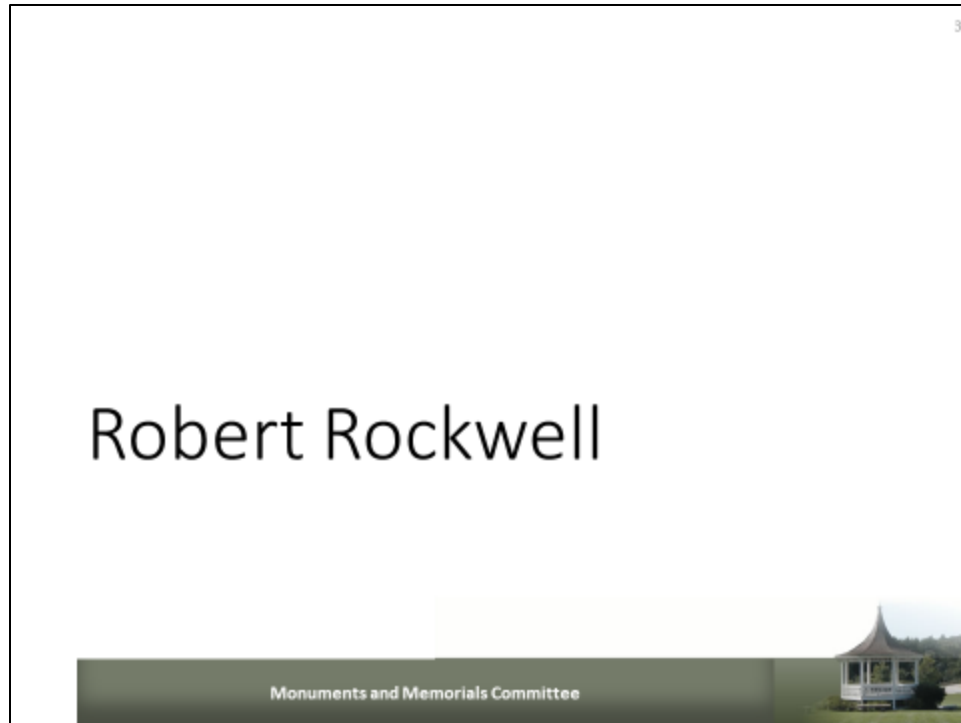


Recent History

- **MMC Meeting Discussion from Nov 2019**
 - Relocation of the Robert Rockwell Memorial Sign. The committee discussed moving the Rockwell sign to another location in town. The current location does not afford the public adequate recognition of the memorial. Two different locations were discussed: the "Simmons" triangle at the junction of Main Street and Depot Street, and the Town Hall on the parcel on the rear of the building.
 - Relocation of the Vernon English monument. The English monument is currently located at the corner of Brook Street and Pleasant Street. It was discussed to relocate the monument to the Kemp Triangle located at the intersection of Kemp Street and Groton Road. This location is closer to the English homestead. Additionally this location would afford more visibility to passers-by.


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4


Pvt. Robert Rockwell



- WW 2 Veteran: D-Day Casualty
- Comments from 2014 Survey

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 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.




- Sign refurbished in 2019

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5

Rockwell Movement Rationale


- Current location on Main Street adjacent to water trough insufficiently prominent
- Move to a different location permits greater public awareness of the memorial



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6

Current Location of Rockwell Sign



Rockwell Sign

Google

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7

Relocation Option: Town Hall

- Grass area behind the town hall affords numerous locations for placement



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8

"Simmons" Triangle Main & Depot St.



Simmons Farm & Greenhouse

Potential Relocation for Rockwell Sign

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9

"Simmon's" Triangle



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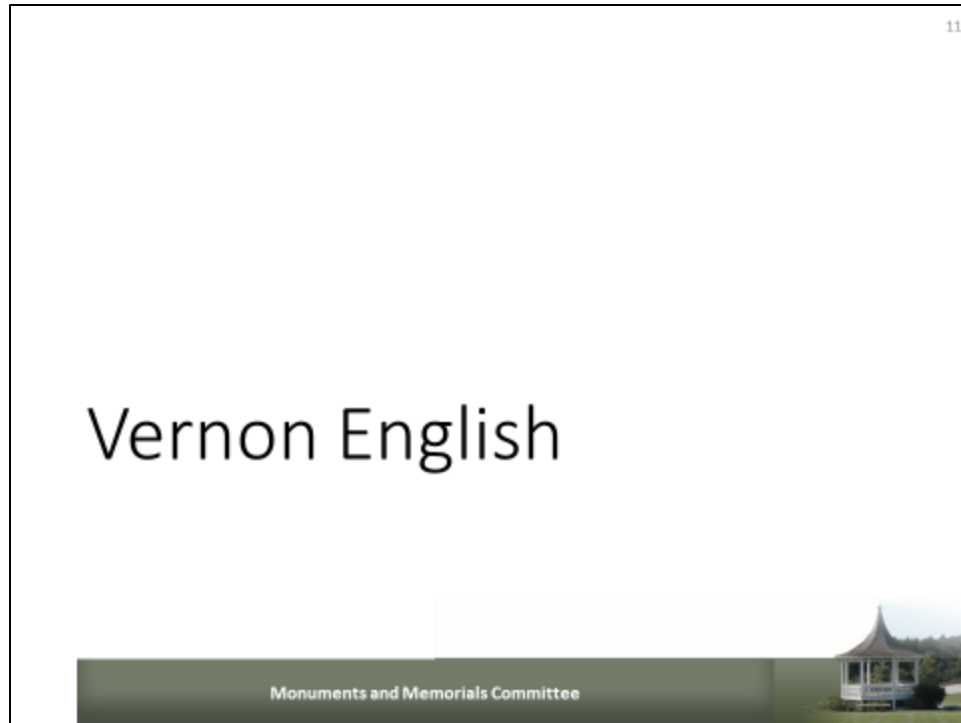
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"Simmon's" Triangle – Practical Issues

- Who is currently maintaining the property?
- Is the Town owner or have claim to the property?


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12


Sgt. Vernon English




- Vernon English – Korean War Casualty
- Comments from 2014 Survey

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.



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13



319 Pleasant Street


- Current Location of English Monument




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14

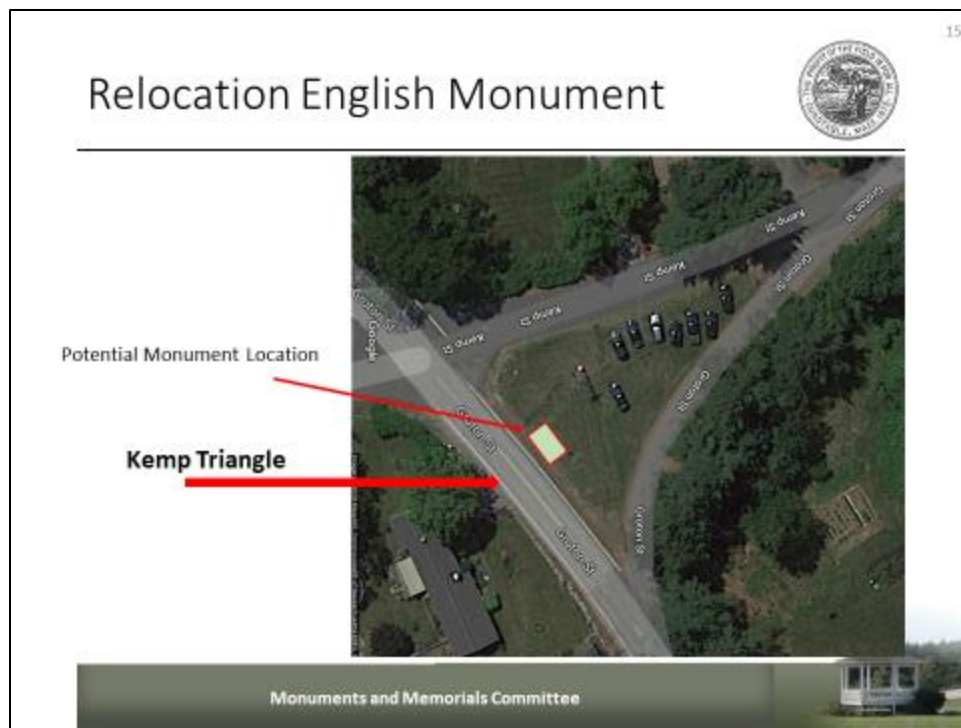


Current Location: English Monument




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17



Kemp Triangle – Practical Issues

- Lot is large and agency responsible for upkeep is undefined
- Triangle is used for parking on a frequent basis.
 - Recently “Car for sale” parked on the lot (Fall 2019)
- Survey in December 2019 showed multiple tire depressions in the grounds
- Is a “parking lot” suitable location for a monument to a fallen soldier?


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18

Backup

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19



By Law Process

Section 8. Memorial Retirement or Relocation.

The Monuments and Memorials Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for any adopted memorial or monument which:

- a. Shall be retired and removed from the public land.
- b. Shall be relocated or moved from one public parcel to another.
- c. When a Memorial, Monument, or Historical Marker as defined in Section 2 is recommended to be permanently removed or permanently relocated upon recommendation of the Memorials and Monuments Committee and the Board of Selection such removal or relocation shall not take effect until approved at a Town Meeting.

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