



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: **November 21, 2019**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday, July 30, 2019**

Scheduled Agenda Items.

1. Review and approval of January 22, 2019 meeting minutes.
2. Committee Administration Topics
 - A. Status of Bylaw Approval by Commonwealth
 - B. Alignment of Committee name to Bylaw Designation
 - C. Proposals for Amendments to the Bylaw: Length of Terms
 - D. Membership of the Committee
3. Monument and Memorial Administration
 - A. Relocation of the Robert Rockwell Memorial Sign
 - B. Relocation of the Richard C. Mitchell granite bench located on the Swallow Union playground at the request of the Parks Commissioners.
 - C. Relocation of the Vernon English monument
 - D. Review and Update of the Master Monuments and Memorial Master List
4. New Business, as needed.

Meeting Minutes.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM. Attending for the committee: Alan Chaney, Philip DeNyse, and Dana Metzler. Absent was Joe Dean. Also attending was James Tully, BOS.
2. The committee reviewed the minutes of January 22, 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. Bylaw Status. Mr. DeNyse reported he was informed by the Town Clerk the bylaw is still under review by the Commonwealth. They have until September to complete the review process.
 - b. Alignment of Committee name to Bylaw Designation. The committee discussed the name of the committee as it been expressed as "Memorials

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- and Monuments” and “Monuments and Memorials”. The committee was in agreement for clarity the name of committee should align to the bylaw nomenclature. Therefore the committee shall be referred to as “Monuments and Memorials Committee”.
- c. Proposals for Amendments to the Bylaw: Length of Terms. There was discussion the bylaw does not describe the length of the terms for the five members. It was observed the bylaw could be amended or the Board of Selectman could designate the term lengths. Mr. Metzler suggested the Board of Selectman designate the duration of the terms in a staggered duration to ensure continuity of knowledge of the committee’s activities. A recommendation will be made to the BOS.
 - d. Membership of the Committee. The Town Clerk has asked each committee to designate positions within the committees. After discussion, Mr. Chaney who has held the chairmanship since the inception of the committee, recommended a change and Mr. Dean be nominated as chairperson for the coming year. All present were in favor of the by a vote of 3-0.
4. Monument and Memorial Administration.
- a. Relocation of the Richard C. Mitchell granite bench located on the Swallow Union playground at the request of the Parks Commissioners. The committee discussed the need and rationale for the change. Mr. DeNyse provided some documentation of the previous location and the planned new location. Refer to Enclosure 2. The committee members were persuaded this monument should be relocated to the recommended locale. The committee members were of unanimous thought on this action. This recommendation to be provided to the Board of Selectman for their review and for addition to the next Town Meeting warrant if the Board recommends.
 - b. Relocation of the Robert Rockwell Memorial Sign. Movement of the Rockwell sign was discussed and if the sign should be moved to another location, if so what location. Some committee members were not convinced the present circumstance of the monument were sufficient to warrant relocation. Lacking in the discussion was the compelling motivation to move the monument from the current location. The secondary concern, was where to move the monument. A number of different options were discussed. There was no support for moving the monument to the grassy area behind the Town Hall. Other options included placing on the Town Common, on a new traffic island elsewhere

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- in the town. Lacking any consensus, this issue was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.
- c. Relocation of the Vernon English monument. There was discussion on moving this monument. Committee members were not clear on rationale for relocation or what the potential locales could be. Committee members tabled the issue for future discussion when Mr. Dean will be present.
 - d. Review and Update of the Master Monuments and Memorial Master List. Mr. DeNyse offered some minor updates to the master list. This list is included as an enclosure.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip J. DeNyse
Memorials and Monuments Committee Recorder

Enclosures:

- (1) List of Monuments in Dunstable as of July 30, 2019
- (2) Relocation of Monuments, July 30, 2019

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Memorial and Monuments Committee

List of Monuments in Dunstable as of July 30, 2019

No.	Monument Name or Designation	Location	Comment or Criteria for Adoption	Recommend Adoption (Y/N)	Listed in the Original Assessment	Maintenance Needed?	Agency Responsible for Repair
1	Revolutionary War	Town Hall		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
2	Civil War	Town Hall		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
3	World War 1	Town Hall		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
4	World War 2	Town Hall		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
5	Korean Conflict	Town Hall		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
6	Vietnam War	Town Hall		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
7	Richard Bacon Bench	Town Common		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
8	Mary F. Pelletier Bench	Town Common		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
9	Idal E. & Warren W. Bacon Bench	Town Common		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
10	Frank & Maria E. Palumbo Bench	Town Common		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
11	Arthur L. Drew Bench	Town Common		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen

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12	Charles E. Goss Bench	Town Common		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
13	George R. McGovern Sr. Bench	Town Common		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
14	Millstone	Town Common	Not a memorial or monument.	Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
15	Vernon English Monument	Corner of Pleasant and Brook St.	On Private Property	Yes	Yes		Veteran's Agent
16	Watering Trough	Pleasant and Main St.	Not a memorial or monument.	Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
17	Robert Rockwell Memorial	Main St.	It is a sign.	Yes	Yes	No, Refurbished 2019	Veteran' Agent
18	POW Square – Dumont	High and Thorndike St		Yes	Yes		Veteran' Agent
19	Jack DeBarbian Monument Bridge	Pleasant St at Salmon Brook		Yes	Yes		Veteran' Agent
20	Archer Davis Plaque	Town Hall		Yes	Yes		Board of Selectmen
21	Dunstable Town Sign (Tercentenary Committee)	Little Red School House and Town Common		Yes	Yes	No, Refurbished 2018.	Historical Commission
22	Merle Paige	Water Dept. on Main Street		Yes	Yes		Water Department
23	Ed Fahey	Highway Dept.		Yes	Yes		Highway Dept.
24	Archer Davis	Library (Flag Pole)			No		Library
25	Deleted						
26	Margaret D. Larter	Larter Family Memorial Field		Yes	Yes		Parks

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27	Adam Barrows	Larter Family Memorial Field		Yes	Yes		Parks
28	Richard C. Mitchell	Swallow Union Elementary School Playground		Yes	No		Parks

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Relocation of Monuments


A Presentation for Committee Discussion

30 July 2019

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Overview

1. Rockwell
2. Mitchell
3. English
4. Proposed Courses of Action

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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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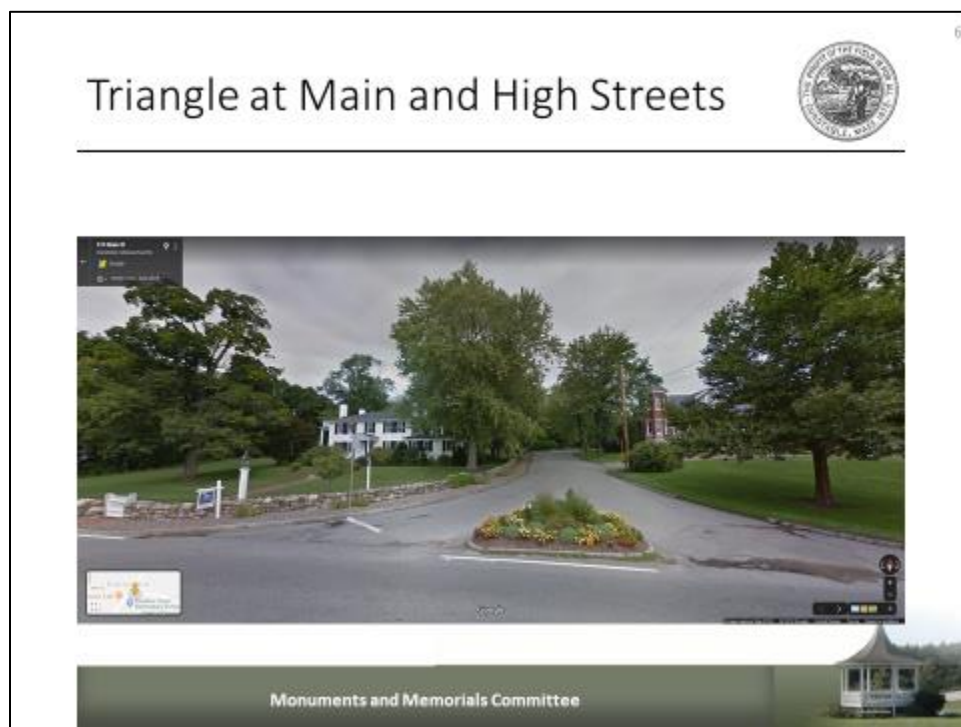
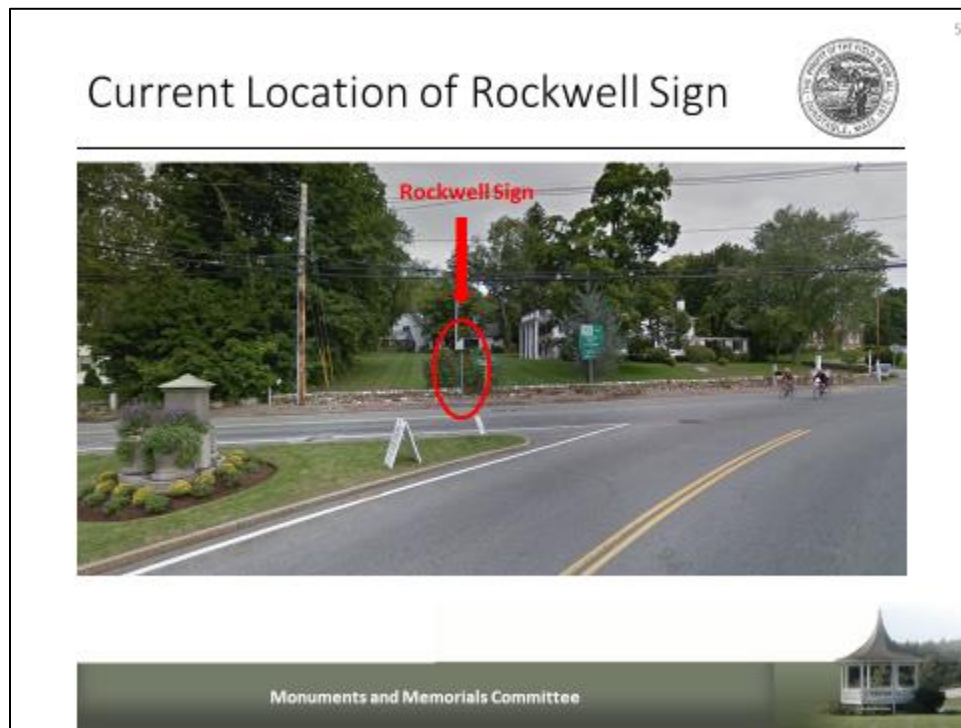


Rockwell Movement Rationale

- 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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Relocation Option: Town Hall



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





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Richard Mitchell Bench at Swallow Union Playground





Died in September 2012. Graduate of Groton Dunstable High School in 2009.

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Mitchell Monument Location




Bench for R. Mitchell

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Relocation of Mitchell Bench



Mitchell Bench

Future Location Approx.

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Mitchell Movement Rationale

- Current location is on the old portion of the Swallow Union playground
- Previous playground equipment has been removed and the area re-landscaped
- Recommendation is to move the bench closer to the near the new playground location
- Relocation supported by Parks and Recreations Commissioners

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English

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

IV. Vernon English Square

The Vernon English Square

This monument 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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319 Pleasant Street


- Current Location of English Monument



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Current Location: English Monument





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Relocation Options -- English

- Town Hall
- Other locales?





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Courses of Action

- By law instructs MMC make a recommendation to the BOS
- Submit to Town Meeting for approval if BOS concurs



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