



Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk of Concord, a meeting of the Permanent Monument Subcommittee of the Concord250 Executive Committee was held in the Trustees Room in the Concord Free Public Library on April 26, 2023.

Members Present: Gary Clayton, Joe Palumbo, Polly Reeve, Tooey Rogers
On Zoom: Nancy Koehn, Christa Collins

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM; a quorum being present.

Minutes of the April 14, 2023 meeting were reviewed and adopted with one minor change.

It was agreed that we needed to write up the minutes for the Public Forum on April 10, as it was, in fact, a public meeting of the subcommittee.

1) **Planting 250 Commemorative Trees**

Christa will work with Aaron Miklosko, Tree Warden, to set up a Working Group as he cannot do all the following by himself - the town plants some 80-100 trees annually, this would be 2 1/2 times that number. The Working Group will need to sort out:

- where to plant the trees;
- how to vet the tree planting sites for safety (wires, pipes, etc.)
- involve other agencies - Laurie Hunter and the School Committee is Enthusiastic, public forum attendees were as well, the Garden Club, Arbor Day (which gives out seedlings);
- look to other towns programs - Gloucester, Harvard (MA) "Tree for All" Program;
- Involve interested citizens - Brian Rosborough is appropriate contact;
- Cost - and budget - explore ways to fund this initiative - public, private, Grants, other sources - ARPA? What are other towns doing?
- Christa to write up summary of Working Group information for our Subcommittee, which we can then give to the Concord250 Committee

Also discussed was the procedure for coordinating funding with the Concord250 Committee, which ultimately gives the final "Okay" to any initiative we determine, but we need more data, which will come from Aaron's Working Group, documented by Christa's summary. Also, Alan Cathcart, director of Public Works is to be involved in this ongoing communication with Aaron.

2) Parcel 1693

Gary and Polly met with Joe Hibbard of Sasaki Associates at the site. He stated that this was a feasible project, but that the Town needed to develop a theme - a concept that would unite the parcel and allow a conceptual designer to create a congruent design.

The subcommittee then discussed that concept. It was strongly felt that this commemoration must recognize people who served in a civilian capacity - heretofore unrecognized. Also, people of color who participated in our nation's founding. One idea, "The People's Park" was put forward to get this ball rolling. It was agreed that this was in the spirit of this commemoration, but that it needs to be more focused.

Nancy, a skilled wordsmith, stated that "it sounds like we're talking about people who haven't had rights. We need something that is "inside" Peoples' Park - perhaps an individual." Gary suggested Ellen Garrison, native daughter of Concord - use her as the "core" around whom we could weave the story of this Concord commemoration. Joe Palumbo had just presented an evening commemorating Ms Garrison. He said that using her as the center of the commemoration would allow many other stories - relating to her life - could fan out and involve others who were also involved, but not included in the history of our Town. Her story could center the wider themes of Concord histories that deserve to be told, and could spur stories of diversity, of social justice, of freedom, of liberty, of dignity, and of all those connected to and working for the Town of Concord at the time of the Revolution. And the appropriateness of this is reinforced by the fact that the "Stand up for Ellen" event of last Friday night effectively launched the 250 celebration of Concord's role in the Revolution.

After this thoughtful cascade of ideas, the committee discussed the need to develop a concise and easy-to-communicate description of the plans for the commemorative parcel.

The committee agree to think about ways to articulate the theme and focus of the memorial with the goal of a dedicated discussion and decision at the May 10 meeting.

The Committee meeting schedules through June is:

May 10 - 9:30 - 11:00 AM	Trustees Room Concord Free Public Library
June 14 - 9:30 - 11:00 AM	Trustees Room Concord Free Public Library
June 28 - 9:30- 11:00 AM	Trustees Room Concord Free Public Library

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM

Minutes respectfully submitted with Joe's help,
Tooey Rogers