



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 May 10, 2023.

Members Present: Gary Clayton, Christa Collins, Joe Palumbo, Polly Reeve, Tooyey Rogers **Not present:** Nancy Koehn

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM; a quorum being present.

Minutes of the April 10, 2023 Public Forum and the April 26th subcommittee meeting were reviewed and adopted with two minor changes.

1) **Parcel 1693**

Members discussed the need to create a theme for Parcel 1693 that will be the focus of a design concept that addresses the Concord250 committee goals for this commemoration. It is good to keep in mind the Concord250 mission statement for the Permanent Memorials Subcommittee:

“considering potentially suitable and permanent memorials, we broadly define them to include, but are not limited to, historical buildings or other structures, commemorative monuments or gardens, projects that entail a significant and positive town-wide environmental outcome or the recognition of veterans comprised of Concord women and men who served during military conflicts over the past two centuries as well as individuals or groups that have not been adequately recognized in the past for their role in the American Revolution.”

We acknowledged that Ellen Garrison, the Concord born African American woman who was an educator and advocate for African American rights as the core of a theme focusing promoting human liberty, dignity and equality especially for those revolutionary contributors not included in our history. The recent “discovery “of Ellen Garrison’s life story is a good example of this and could provide a “stepping off” focus for the theme of Parcel 1693.

Members discussed ways of telling stories of significant people and groups that will continue to unfold, continue to be uncovered, of people like Ellen Garrison. To use the Robbins House words, we want to “reveal little known stories - to unearth and share” those stories. These stories - the lives of many revolutionary soldiers and supporters - could take shape through the exemplary life of Ellen Garrison.

Members agreed to compose a draft theme to discuss at the next meeting. Joe noted that there is a DEI committee that is also working on these themes, and which might be useful in this process.

2) Planting 250 Commemorative Trees

Christa has arranged a meeting for Gary and her with Town Manager Kerry Lafleur on May 23 for the purpose of discussing funding strategies for planting 250 commemorative trees.

She also met again with Aaron Milosko , Concord Tree Warden. She noted that the current town budget for planting trees is \$60,000 for planting 80-100 trees per year, but is trying to determine the cost for planting the 250 trees, which may need to be separated from the existing town plantings. Also, the difficulty of street tree planting - vetting the sites for pipes and wires - may make it effective to focus on schools, parks, and cemeteries. But these kinds of determinations will need input from all the players with whom Christa has been talking.

And it was agreed that the establishment of a staff and citizen Working Group to facilitate the 250 commemorative tree planting is essential. In keeping with her comprehensive approach to this complex project, Christa talked with Schools Superintendent, Dr. Laurie Hunter, who is enthusiastic about the tree planting project. Given the nature of the project, it was thought that we should contact Eric Simms, Concord's Sustainability Director. Christa is also looking to continue fostering citizen support for this project.

3) Next Steps

- Gary and Christa to meet with Town Manager Kerry Lafleur on May23
- Christa to get tree planting costs from Aaron Miklosko or Alan Cathcart
- Christa will ask Schools Superintendent Laurie Hunter to identify a "point person" for the Schools for the tree planting project
- Christa will continue to make a list of interested parties for the tree project

The Permanent Memorial Subcommittee future meetings:

May 24- 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 11:05 AM
Minutes respectfully submitted,
Tooy Rogers