



## MEETING MINUTES

*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 of the Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main Street on August 30, 2023.*

Members Present: Gary Clayton, Christa Collins, Nancy Koehn (remote), Joe Palumbo, Polly Reeve, Tooey Rogers

Guests Present: From Sasaki Associates – Joe Hibbard, Greg Havens, and Ponnapa “Gift” Prakkamakul; Ann Clifford, Senior Planner for the Town of Concord; Nancy Fresella-Lee, historian and documenter

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM; a quorum being present.

1. Minutes of the August 9, 2023 meeting of the subcommittee were reviewed and adopted as amended.
2. The remainder of the meeting focused on plans for the park to be designed and constructed on the town-owned land between the Veterans Memorial and the Catholic Church Rectory on Monument Square as a memorial to those Concord people who worked for social justice and individual freedom, but whose voices have not always been heard, honored, or remembered.

Joe Hibbard presented a progress report on behalf of the Sasaki design team. He first reviewed the process they are undertaking in order to develop a conceptual design for the Memorial: an analysis of its physical and cultural qualities as well as regulatory considerations; a refinement of the statement of purpose for the team to clarify our design objectives and determine the “content” of the memorial; the development of one or more conceptual designs for the space leading to a consensus and recommendation by the subcommittee.

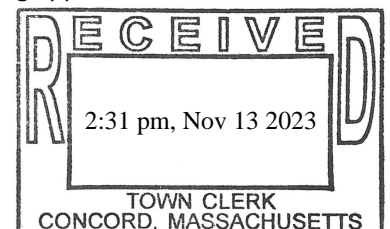
Physical space – The team has concluded that this is an excellent site for the proposed civic memorial. It is visible, central, with attractive surroundings, mature trees, good access, etc. The only challenge is the underground stormwater chamber and providing access for maintenance, but the Town has agreed to modify its process so that heavy vehicular access is not required.

Cultural context – Ann Clifford has prepared a comprehensive overview of the history of the site, which has been helpful to the design team and has been circulated to the members of the subcommittee.

Regulatory – The Sasaki team, with Gary Clayton and Joe Palumbo, met with the chairs of the Concord Historical Commission and the Historic Districts Commission to introduce our project and solicit informal feedback. The commission representatives emphasized the importance of understanding and referring to the principal historic references of the site, including the founding of Concord, the events of 1775, and the location of the county jail. Joe Palumbo added that the Middlesex Hotel, as the place of employment of George Washington Dugan, is also significant. Thus, this location is rich with historic reference points, and Joe Hibbard expressed Sasaki’s conclusion that merging the Memorial content with specific site history will make the purpose of the Memorial come alive. Finally, a meeting with the Natural Resources Division assured the team that there are no major issues with wetlands reviews.

Design Purpose – Joe Hibbard presented suggestions for further evolution of the statement of purpose, which led to debate and discussion. Polly Reeve will try to incorporate concerns and will circulate a further revised version to members of the subcommittee.

Design Objectives – Joe presented an overview of the types of memorials the team is studying as precedents: stone, with plaques and carved; figurative, including in landscape settings; architectural; placemaking. He also reviewed the existing palette of the site and presented the team’s current thinking about what would work best here, including possibly a high quality figurative element and/or a placemaking approach.



Spatial Organization – Joe then presented four schematic diagrams showing how the space could be organized and asked for feedback. In general, there was a preference for a layout that draws people into the site, and invites exploration and reflection. A discussion followed about whether or not to include these slides during the public hearing on September 27.

Memorial Content – The design team emphasized that we need to develop the textual and interpretive approaches for the memorial. Will we rely on quotes? A narrative? How do we plan to bring the message behind the memorial to life for visitors who have no context for it? It will be difficult to engage the public in a consideration of design schemes at the public forum without the basic approach being clear. The subcommittee is charged with this task, and Nancy Koehn and Joe Palumbo will start gathering relevant quotations that might provide a starting point, including those of Ellen Garrison, Frederick Douglas, Mary Brooks and other female abolitionists, the Alcotts, etc.

3. Plans for the Public Hearing on September 27 – The hearing will be held in the Town House from 7:00 to 8:30. Its purpose will be to update the public on the progress of the Memorial Subcommittee to date, with the memorial on Monument Square its primary focus, and to solicit feedback.

We will meet next on September 11, from 3:30 to 5:00. Subcommittee members were asked to review Ann Clifford's cultural history presentation in advance and respond to Gary with any feedback. To encourage attendance, we will communicate through the Tourism Huddle (Nancy Fresella-Lee), Conservation Coffee (Christa), Historic Issues Forum (Joe P.), Next Door (Tooey), Ag Day (Christa), Concord Bridge calendar (Tooey), Select Board and Town Manager (Gary), and Public Schools DEI leader (Christa). Tooey will create a flyer that we can all distribute.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Polly Reeve