



MEETING MINUTES

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk of Concord, a public hearing of the Permanent Monument Subcommittee of the Concord250 Executive Committee was held in the Hearing Room of the Concord Town House at 7:00 PM on September 27, 2023.

Members Present: Gary Clayton, Joe Palumbo, Polly Reeve

Guests Present: From Sasaki Associates – Joe Hibbard and Ponnapa “Gift” Prakkamakul; Ann Clifford, Senior Planner for the Town of Concord; Mimi Graney, Economic Vitality Director for the Town of Concord

Eighteen members of the public signed in at the door and were offered handouts.

1. The start of the meeting was delayed due to technical challenges. Gary Clayton called the meeting to order at 7:15.
2. Gary provided an introduction of the subcommittee members present and the representatives of the team from Sasaki. He acknowledged the town staff members who have been very helpful in our process thus far. He referred to the subcommittee’s charge and the three projects that we are undertaking at part of the Concord250 permanent memorial effort. He then focused on the memorial civic space we are planning to create on Parcel 1693 – its location, its motivating concept, and the schedule for developing a design.
3. Joe Hibbard and Gift Prakkamakul made a presentation about the site itself – its physical features and its cultural history – and the qualities of memorial precedents in terms of materials, size, and organization. They introduced some contemporary projects that deal with issues of social justice, and offered schematic diagrams for ways that the space we are developing could be organized, including size, orientation and site enclosure.
4. Joe Palumbo gave a short presentation on the work of the committee and how we were impacted by the research of the Monument Lab National Audit. He discussed how this work had an impact on the development of our Statement of Purpose and our desire to honor voices that were not previously represented or honored. He led an activity related to the collection of quotes included in the handout, and asked attendees to offer their reactions to these in the form of words to be contributed to a “word cloud” that took shape as they contributed their responses.
5. Members of the public offered feedback to the committee:
 - Could there be a water element? The site is on the Milldam, and this would be appropriate as well as creating a peaceful focus for reflection.
 - BIPOC people have little to no representation in current markers and memorials and this memorial can be an opportunity to address this.
 - The name “Concord” is significant and should be highlighted. Unity, humanity.
 - Native Americans who have lived here for thousands of years should be represented.
 - People don’t want to see more granite.
 - The space should foster a peaceful sensibility for gathering and reflection.
 - The Assabet and the Sudbury Rivers come together to form the Concord River. The theme of joining together.
 - There were several questions about whether Ellen Garrison should be the focus. Why her? Why not Martha Moulton?
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.
Minutes respectfully submitted,
Polly Reeve

