

Milford War Memorial Revitalization Committee

Minutes

April 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Remote via Vast Conference

Members present: Joe Lutfy, Paul Malnati, Donna Niro (Secretary), Jeff Niro, Gail Reichert, Peter Scandone (Chairmen), Steve Trettel Co-Chairmen), Mike Walsh,

Members Absent: Frank Andreotti, Brian Murray, Paul Pellegrini, John Pilla, Rosemary Trettel, Nancy Wojick.

Nonmembers Present: Geri Eddins, Bryan Cole, Jim Asam, Mitch Ruscitti

Nonmembers Absent: Rick Villani, Steve Petak, Chuck Reneau.

- Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm and a quorum was established.
- Welcome and introduction of new member, Gail Arcudi Reichert.
- Overview of work done by Jim Asam.

Grant Status (Mitch Ruscitti)

- Celebrate Milford has earmarked a \$5K donation which will be granted once work is completed. This is eligible for a match through Mass Development grant.
- Heritage grant has been awarded for \$15K. It is uncertain if this is eligible for matching through Mass Development grant.
- Up to \$10K for restoration of Draper Monument will be awarded from the Hopedale Draper Foundation. This is eligible for a match through Mass Development grant.
- Mass Development grant has been granted for ~\$85K value. It will be a dollar for dollar match with crowd funding. They are on a

hold pattern for a few weeks secondary to COVID. The in-kind match will reduce the value of the grant. Mass Development wants to come out to visit project sometime in May or June. They then create an ad spot which can be used as marketing for raising funds. There will be a 60 day window within which we will be able to raise up to \$42,500 in funds that would be matched by Mass Development. The maximum contribution from an individual donor can only be \$10,000.

- Conversation ensued about what tasks and costs can be rolled into the grant.
- Peter thanked Jim agreeing to notify him of scheduled meetings with Rick Villani and contractors involved in the repairs. Jim will also forward the current projected cost and method of specific repairs.
- Availability of grant monies for 2021 is uncertain.
- State also offers grants annually which may be an option per Mitch.
- Paul Malnati mentioned that there are other downtown businesses and non-profits that may be willing to donate and suggested meeting with those folks.

Town of Milford Contribution (Peter)

- Per Mike, a contribution from the Town is tenuous due to the financial impact of COVID pandemic on the Town budget.

Parks Department Updates (Jim)

- Gail inquired about what types of trees are being considered. Jim provided an overview.
- Jeff Buccacio will come out and make a determination of what work needs to be done on the statue.

- Steve questioned whether or not work needed around the Draper statue will be considered as part of the statue work. This is probable per Jim but will need to be determined with certainty as to what work will be considered as enhancements to the statue.
- Joe commented that Calzone Park is one of the most emotional places to stop and the importance of that park should be commemorated.
- Jeff pointed out that if we aren't going to go ahead with a Fall article and given the fragility of the municipal budget, what is our strategy for maximizing the match of \$42,500. Mitch indicated that we may not move forward with until June or July.

Other Business

- Geri Eddins, Chair, of the Cultural Council, which is part of Mass Cultural Council, is interested in collaborating on an art project to enhance Calzone Park. Geri explained that the primary mission of the Council is to seek out and advocate for projects and events in the arts and sciences. They are particularly interested in downtown projects. They've contacted the Town about formalizing arts project for the Town but have not received a response from Selectmen yet. Jim Asam asked about the nature of the art that is being considered. Bryan Cole, Co-Chair, of the Cultural Council addressed type of mural that could be considered for the side of the Gail's Hair Salon business. Bryan suggested perhaps something historical, perhaps a photo from a parade after Armistice Day. Gail pointed out the importance of maintaining the statue as the focal point of Calzone Park and not the mural. Mike talked about previous conversations of moving the statue closer to the rode. Gail pointed out there is more room for the ceremony if the statue remains in the current location. Jim shared that the sculptor also suggests keeping the

statue in the same location for other reasons. This topic can be revisited when meeting with the sculptor. Paul indicated that lighting will be helpful to enhance the statue. Joe feel that the mural should be dedicated to WWI to keep remain in accord with the focus of the park.

- Bryan requested that WMRC write a letter to the Selectmen pointing out how the art project would enhance the park and compliment the statue. The Downtown Revitalization Committee has already submitted a letter of this nature to the Selectmen.
- Steve made a motion that that we accept the possibility of collaborating with the Cultural Council, and it was seconded by Gail. A rollcall vote was unanimous.
- Peter thanked Mitch and Jim for all their work and contributions to the committee.
- Donna moved to adjourn the meeting, and Joe seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm

Next meeting: May 14, 2020 7:00 PM, Milford Town Hall, Room 14 or remote via Vast conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Niro

WMRC, Secretary

Signature 
WMRC Chairman

Dated April 14, 2020