

## Thetford Memorial Park Notes initial meeting 10March2015

Meeting commenced at 5pm with Ted Peters, Jen Boeri-Boyce, Martha (Marty) Bouchard, Nicolas Buonanduci, Jessica Eaton, Bill Keegan (5:25)

Ted Peters gave a history of what he had done to get the trees down and what was involved to get the project to this point. In 1948 the names were submitted for Honor Roll at Town Meeting. Ben Tilden said the trees were planted in memory of veterans.

Ted was representing Post Mills Church at first. The property committee identified the trees were a risk for the church, cemetery and the roads. Church used to take care of the common. The congregation is dwindling and aging and costs were rising for mowing. They approached the Selectboard a few years ago about taking over care of the lawn.

Ted approached the selectboard about removing the trees and he spoke to Gary Ulman who agreed they were past due. The power company took down 4 trees and the Town paid to remove the rest. Maxfields and others removed the pine for other uses.

Ted looked into sawing up some logs for benches but it was not feasible. Ironwood stump grinding had quoted a price of \$4500. Once the stump is out there is a big hole. Gravel is good to fill the hole and that is where the gravel perimeter came from to assist with parking access.

Ted & Marty discussed the names that had come from the 1948 Town Report and the differences with the plaque on the front of the Town Hall. Further inquiry will be made by Jen.

Discussion about what to do with stumps and whether or not to have gravel perimeter. Trees really close to road probably grew more roots away from the road rather than under it due to compaction. Not removing stumps and roots would result in mowing being more time consuming.

Discussion of moving power pole and removing widow maker in the top of the Willow tree.  
Discussion of property lines, brush growing and the cemetery.  
Contact Andy Martin- concerns about mowing, suggestions?

Lots of decisions on how to do the project at less cost. Is it necessary to plant a tree in memory of each veteran? Ted is not married to Elmer Browns original design- the group is open to other ideas. Elmer had designed private spots with granite benches surrounded with Lilacs.

One quote for benches:

- a. with a bit of a curve      6' long 2' wide      \$950
  - b. Rectangular              6' long and 4" thick      \$550
- includes assembly and placing on prepared surface.

Gazebo – possibly too large for the ground area?? Picnic pavilion like TA timber framing class?

Will need signs to remind people to clean up after pets and themselves.

Plaque on the point end near a perennial garden to possibly read: "Dedicated to all Veterans past & present and their family and loved ones."

10' gravel perimeter will cover most of the stump holes.

Ted had spoken with Jim Masland- he said Bernie Sanders is supportive once a definite plan is in place. Possible grants.

Job 1 is to get the stumps out.

Ted will pursue agreements to remove the stumps- put them in a pile and fill the holes with gravel.

Jessica will get on the Selectboard agenda to request the Town Road crew to cart away the stumps when convenient and stack them in the stump dump.

Next meeting is set for 5pm on Tuesday 24 March.

Jessica Eaton