

Blair Square Committee

Minutes

November 10, 2020

Via Zoom

K. Conley called the meeting to order at 6 pm. A voice roll call of the members was taken:

Present: K. Conley, G. Rice, H. Brockett, E. Woodhouse, S. Lively, I. Daniels, W. McGrath, R Harrold (phone)

K. Conley asked each member what they hoped to accomplish as part of the committee:

G. Rice - Improved parking for the area

H. Brockett – Move the trail, set up areas that need work, get the veterans park in order

S. Lively – Create a public space for groups of different sizes to do things.

E. Woodhouse – Multipurpose public space with some green space that can be used every day as well as special events.

W. McGrath – Create the veterans memorial and have a place for the town to gather for events.

K. Conley - A place to come and enjoy and to have for future generations, a place for shows and other community events.

S. Lively mentioned that some of the problem might be that we are looking at a space that has a rail trail running through it and we would most likely be meeting to discuss what to do with the area if there was no rail trail.

S. Lively suggested we should think of Blair Square as a public space that happens to have a rail trail running through it. It is no longer just a rail trail.
Even without the rail trail we would be meeting to decide the best use for the space.

K. Conley appointed a sub-committee of H. Brockett, S. lively and R. Harrold to look into the grading and drainage of the site.

Some discussion arose on how much brick area there should be and what kind of brick. This would become evident when the drawing is done.

H. Brockett suggested that maybe we could do this in stages, maybe get the design and development done and postpone the construction drawings.

K. Conley said that it was his understanding that the veterans would be taken care of the memorial. W. McGrath mentioned some of the history at Blair Square and that it has always been his understanding that the veterans would build and pay for the memorial. H. Brockett said he disagreed some with McGrath's timeline but he agreed that the veterans were capable of building the memorial. I. Daniels felt that it was important that the memorial blend in with the park and that any drawings that she had seen were not suitable for construction. W. McGrath said that he would try and get a meeting with the memorial committee and I. Daniels.

At this point, K. Conley went over with the committee items that have already been voted on.

Save as many trees as possible, relocate those that have been donated if possible, and remove one or two near the structure if needed.

Front Street parking was discussed for either diagonal or parallel parking. This will depend on if the street is made one-way or not.

The type of structure has been agreed upon by the committee.

There will be no bathrooms; a cement slab will be placed to be used for portable toilets if an event requires them.

Even though we have been charged with going to Exchange Street, we are only looking to work the area up to the path that crosses the site.

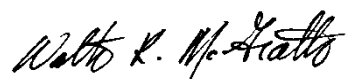
The septic system is now moot.

No caboose for bathrooms on the site.

There was a brief discussion about when to have a public meeting, but for now no decision was made.

A motion was made by S. Lively, seconded by H. Brockett to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. The motion was approved on individual voice votes.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter R. McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Walter R. McGrath, Clerk

