

**MINUTES OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES & PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON JULY 31, 2018**

A Natural Resources and Public Property Committee meeting was held on July 31, 2018 at 7:00P.M. in the City Council office, Room 204.

Committee Members: Committee Chairperson Thomas Sullivan, Councillors LePage and Bevilacqua. Councillor Barrett was also present.

Department Head: Michael Ingham, Veterans Services Director

Attendees: Pam Carr, Mike Katsulis, Ralph Basiliere, Lou Fossarelli, Keith Gopsill, Gerry Boucher, and Penelope Davis.

The following items were discussed:

1.) **Doc.63-U** – Communication from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting discussion regarding Vietnam Veterans Memorial and to introduce Louis Fossarelli, Vietnam Veteran to speak; Councillor Sullivan initiated a discussion regarding the Vietnam Veterans Memorial presently located at the corner of the Basiliere Bridge and One Water Street, and the need to determine whether there is a better location for the monument and whether a more befitting monument could be realized at a better location in the future. Ralph Basiliere and Michael Ingham mentioned a park on Mill Street located just outside the entrance to Plug Pond as a better location for a monument, and all those in attendance, including Councillors LePage and Bevilacqua, agreed it was worth exploring this option further. Councillor Sullivan then mentioned that if that location were to be chosen, then we may want to make plans to move the existing monument to the better location as soon as possible, but definitely well in advance of the reconstruction of the Basiliere Bridge. Again, there was unanimous agreement that moving the existing monument before bridge reconstruction would be a good idea, with the thought being to relocate the existing monument then decide on a new and more appropriate monument befitting of the park location setting. Michael Ingham, Veterans Services Director, noted that the park suggested was once a training ground for Vietnam era Veterans from “Company A”, which made it an interesting choice of location to erect a more permanent monument. Councillor Sullivan suggested setting up a commission to establish a “Blue Ribbon Commission to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial” and the idea was met with unanimous support. Councillor Bevilacqua expressed interest in serving on the Commission, along with Councillors Barrett and Sullivan. Members in attendance who agreed to serve on the Commission included Michael, Ingham, Ralph Basiliere, Lou Fossarelli, Keith Gopsill, and Gerry Boucher.

A motion was made by Councillor Bevilacqua to send a letter to the Mayor requesting he establish a “Blue Ribbon Commission to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial” and to research the Mill Street Park as a possible location for the existing monument and a possible new monument. The motion was seconded by Councillor LePage, and the item passed 3-0. It should be noted that Councillor Sullivan and Ralph Basiliere have since met with the Mayor to further advance this item, and the Mayor has expressed his support and will formally name members to a commission to explore and hopefully achieve the goals outlined above.

2.) **Doc. # 58-C/17** – Communication from Councillors Sullivan, Macek and Bevilacqua requesting to discuss an ongoing tree problem on City property abutting and impacting Holland’s Flowers located at 577 South Main Street; Councillor Sullivan re-introduced the agenda item relative to the ongoing tree problem on City property abutting and impacting Holland’s Flowers located at 577 South Main Street. After a brief discussion about the history of the location and the possible alternative of eliminating the paper street between Holland’s Flowers and a two unit condex, it was determined that since the owners of the condex never expressed interest in joining in an effort to eliminate the paper street with Holland’s the city couldn’t

proceed to explore the possibility. Councillor Sullivan suggested going back to the original recommendation made at a previous meeting to request that the Highway Department go back out and take a look at the city land in question to determine whether or not they can at minimum clean out some of the fallen trees and limbs and invasive vines.

A motion was made by Councillor Bevilacqua and seconded by Councillor LePage to send a letter to the Highway Department requesting a clean out of the public property/paper street located to the right of Holland's Flower Shop, and the item passed 3-0.

3.) **Doc. # 104-B/17** – Petition from Pamela J. Carr requesting to purchase City land abutting her property on Atlanta Street, Assessor's Map 528, Block 11, Lot 178.

Councillor Sullivan re-introduced the agenda item relative to a petition from Pamela J. Carr requesting to purchase City land abutting her property on Atlanta Street, Assessor's Map 528, Block 11, Lot 178. After a brief discussion about next steps that would have to be taken, the petitioner decided not to move forward with the request.

A motion was made by Councillor Bevilacqua to withdraw the petition, which was seconded by Councillor LePage, and the item passed 3-0.

Document #120-V/17 – Communication from Councillor Vargas requesting to introduce Derrick Heins to discuss an opportunity to support veterans and agriculture. *Meeting with the parties was held and they decided not to pursue it any further.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:43P.M. upon motion of Councillor Bevilacqua, seconded by Councillor LePage, and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Sullivan, Chairperson
Natural Resources & Public Property Committee
Haverhill City Council

September 6, 2018