

Granby takes steps toward raising a veterans' memorial next to the Town Common



The spot where Aldrich Hall now stands could become the site of a veterans' memorial. (David Molnar / The Republican file)

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GRANBY – The plot of land where **[Aldrich Hall](http://topics.masslive.com/tag/aldrich-hall/index.html)** (<http://topics.masslive.com/tag/aldrich-hall/index.html>) now stands is being eyed for the site of a veterans' memorial in Granby.

Anthony Regan, a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, said such a memorial has been a long time coming. "All the towns around here have them," he said.

Regan is a member of a **[Veterans Memorial Committee](http://www.granbyma.org/Pages/GranbyMA_BOSMin/09-04-2012.pdf)** (http://www.granbyma.org/Pages/GranbyMA_BOSMin/09-04-2012.pdf) working on the project. Other members include Brian Sowell, Jim Sowell, Stephen Weatherbee, **[Joshua Bouchard](http://topics.masslive.com/tag/joshua-bouchard/index.html)** (<http://topics.masslive.com/tag/joshua-bouchard/index.html>), James Bouchard and Granby police officer Jason Richard.

The memorial is envisioned as a multi-part outdoor arrangement with benches where visitors can sit and reflect as they look out over the Town Common.

[Veterans Agent John O'Connor](http://www.granbyma.org/Pages/GranbyMA_BOSMin/09-04-2012.pdf) (http://www.granbyma.org/Pages/GranbyMA_BOSMin/09-04-2012.pdf) cautions that the project is still in its early stages. Town Meeting has approved of the demolition of Aldrich Hall, but more steps need to be taken before that happens.

Currently, Granby residents who died in war are memorialized by "The Boulder," a massive rock in front of the Granby Public Library that bears a metal plaque.

The momentum to build a more visible tribute began when town government offices were moved out of **[Kellogg Hall](http://www.granbyma.net/photos.php)** (<http://www.granbyma.net/photos.php>), which served as Town Hall, and into Aldrich, said Regan.

(Both of these historic buildings, unfortunately, have deteriorated to the point that they

are hazardous to health. Town Hall offices recently moved again, to 10 West State St.)

Kellogg held a number of remembrances of those fallen in past wars. “There are two big marble plaques, 6 feet long and 4 feet wide and an inch thick in there,” said Regan, “and there are seven more in bronze.”

They all honor the people of Granby who went to war and didn’t return.

When the occupants of Kellogg moved out, the artifacts stayed behind. The worry, said Regan, is that the abandoned building could catch fire or fall to other disasters, and the artifacts could be destroyed.

Town administrator Christopher Martin said the Aldrich site makes sense for several reasons. It’s in the center of Granby, next to the Town Common, and there is plenty of parking space.

Because the memorial would be outdoors, people would be able to visit at any hour of the day or night.

James Sowell, a member of the committee and a student at the University of Massachusetts, has been making sketches for a monument.

In spite of his caution, O’Connor can’t contain his excitement about the future memorial. “It’s going to be fabulous,” he said.