

Long-sought Granby veterans memorial may break ground in fall



By JACQUELYN VOGHEL

Staff Writer

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GRANBY — A veterans memorial seven years in the making may break ground in Granby before the year is up.

The Granby Veterans Memorial project is in the design phase and has garnered around \$170,000 in funds, according to Jason Richard, a member of the Granby Veterans Memorial Committee and nonprofit group Friends of Granby Veterans. Richard said the project may break ground by November — in time for Veterans Day.

The Granby Veterans Memorial Committee first met in 2012 to begin planning the project but faced roadblocks in the following years. In 2016, a Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services grant intended to fund the memorial's construction was suspended through June 2017, placing the project on hold.

The state has since reallocated the \$35,000 grant to the project, Richard said, and also contributed a \$2,000 agricultural grant to purchase trees for the site.

Other funding has been sourced from the three yearly fundraisers, which include a chicken barbeque, a pork dinner and a 5K run and walk event. The project also received a significant donation from Joseph Partyka, who contributed a plot of land that was sold for about \$65,000.

After years of fundraising and stalled progress, to have the memorial projected to break ground in the near future feels "pretty fantastic," Richard said.

"Not only for all of the members of the group that have been working so hard, but mostly for the public, I think, that have been waiting for this for a long time," he said. "But most importantly, it's to honor the veterans."

The memorial is to be built on an elevated site at the corner of State and North streets, and is designed in the style of a stone wall. It will feature four bronze and two marble plaques, which were previously housed in Kellogg Hall, etched with the names of Granby veterans from the Civil War through the Vietnam War, according to the Granby Veterans Memorial website. New bronze plaques will also be created for veterans of the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The committee will not have a cost estimate available until designs are complete, Richard said.