

November 12, 2020

Granby Veteran's Memorial Newsletter

First and foremost, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the veterans that have selflessly served their country over the years both past and present. Thank you for your service to our great nation!

The Granby Veterans Memorial Committee and the Friends of Granby Veterans have been working tirelessly to construct a veteran's memorial on the plot of Town owned land located at the corner of State Street and North Street for many years now. Our mission from the beginning was to raise the monies needed for the construction of the memorial ourselves and to construct a veteran memorial park that the entire community could enjoy and be proud of.

The memorial's design and location has changed many times over the years due to obstacles that we have faced and overcome. The current design was scaled back last year to come closer to the funding we have raised thus far so that we could start the project sooner. Each design change has opened our eyes to new ideas and improved the overall look and functionality of the park.

Together we have held many fundraising events over the years and received so many gracious donations from the public. We have hosted several chicken barbeques, pork loin dinners, roast beef dinners, 5K runs, raffle drawings, and sold various merchandise, all of which supported our mission to raise as much money as possible to construct the memorial without using any tax payer funds. None of these events would have been possible without the assistance of so many of our community partners which we thank dearly.

We were very close to beginning construction this spring but the corona virus brought our plans to a screeching halt. As a result of corona virus safety guidelines we have not been able to host any of our usual fund raising events and planned meetings with contractors had to be cancelled.

Although we have encountered some delays, we haven't stopped pushing forward. During this time, the Friends of Granby Veterans has hired a grant writer who applied for 11 grants totaling \$150,000. To date 4 of those grants have been denied and 7 are still in the review phase by the grant administrators. We remain very hopeful to raise approximately \$90,000 through the grants that are still under review.

To date the Friends of Granby Veterans (a non-profit group) has raised a total of \$172,000 towards the construction of the memorial. This total includes \$65,000 that was graciously donated by Mr. Joseph Partyka through a land donation. Another \$35,000 came from a state grant for veteran memorials. The rest of the monies raised came from our fundraising events and from other gracious donations. We have spent \$53,000 of that money on bronze lettering, service logos, plaques, and the services of an architect & a grant writer. As of today, we have a total of \$132,000 saved towards the construction of the veteran memorial park.

Construction estimates are difficult to calculate because we plan to utilize a combination of volunteer labor as well as paid labor. Further difficulties arise because the memorial will be

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constructed on public land. Consequently, the State bidding process must be utilized and prevailing wage must be paid to those contractors that are unable to donate their services. We have also faced challenges in obtaining a civil engineers stamp on the final design plans which is required in order to present the plans to the planning board.

However, several of the required contractors have graciously agreed to volunteer their time, equipment or materials needed to construct the memorial. Yet, funds are still required to pay the remaining needed contractors as well as for the remaining materials required to construct the memorial park.

With the aforementioned difficulties of estimating construction costs in mind, we anticipate the need to raise at least \$50,000 more in order to begin construction of the memorial project. If we are awarded one or more of the grants that we applied for, that would propel us towards our goal even quicker. Nevertheless, we are planning to have the design plans in front of the planning board for their approval by the spring of 2021 as long as we can find a civil engineer willing to stamp the plans.

The Friends of Granby Veterans is planning a roast beef dinner fund raiser to be held on February 6, 2021 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. At this time the fundraiser will be set up as a drive thru pick up only event due to corona virus guidelines. Event details will be sent out on our social media sites in the near future.

We are still working diligently behind the scenes to begin construction of the memorial project as soon as possible. We understand that the public is eager to see the projects ground breaking occur, as are we. However, there is a need to raise more funds in order to begin construction. We appreciate the communities' enduring patience during this time and we are grateful for the continued support from the people of Granby. Together we will make the memorial project a reality.

Respectfully,

The Granby Veteran's Memorial Committee & the Friends of Granby Veterans