

SHPMC Design Subcommittee Meeting

5-10-17, 4:30 pm, Newtown Municipal Center

Meeting Room 3

Present:

- James Ryan and Anthony Nestor, JMC Site Development Consultants;
- Agni Kyprianou, Sarah Middleleer, SHPMC

Jim and Anthony briefed Agni and Sarah on the pro bono work that JMC has done for the memorial project. This includes mapping the site. They have prepared a map that shows all property lines (including subdivision of original site), easements, topography, trees over 8" in caliper, etc. They also prepared some concept drawings showing possible access and parking layout, as well as existing and proposed trails. The drawing showing access and parking was done in order to verify that parking for approximately 20 cars in the area formerly occupied by the ball field would work, given the new subdivision property boundaries and existing grades. They found that there is room for the parking.

Jim also discussed their own April site walk with environmental consultant Beth Evans, who felt that the existing ponds are healthy and offer a good opportunity for including them in the overall memorial site design. Aside from some invasive plants (which ought to be removed to improve the habitat quality and visitor access), she felt that the ponds could be a positive feature. The existing shade trees around them should be preserved.

During the site walk they also found existing trails near the ponds, which added to the pond areas' functionality and appeal.

Jim offered to have the wetlands flagged, which will help inform the process of future trail development.

There was discussion about scope of the project (as it will be presented in the submission guidelines). All agreed that designers should be encouraged to address the entire site. This is another reason for knowing where the wetlands lie.

With regard to the access and parking plan, it was decided that some adjustments would be made (to be followed up on by the subcommittee) and that designers will be informed that they can modify it if desired (although the main access must stay in the location shown). Jim requested that the subcommittee be specific about how they want the JMC drawings titled.

Jim also mentioned an issue with sight distance at the property entrance, saying that the existing berm ought to be modified to make conditions safer.

Jim offered to provide the commission the use of his firm's Dropbox account, so that prospective designers can obtain maps and submit designs. He also encouraged the subcommittee to make further requests for assistance with mapping or other issues.

There was some discussion about security lighting options and a site walk for prospective designers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Sarah Middleleer