

“A good idea will not be denied! It may take longer than desired but it will come to fruition.”

In early 2012, Ethel Schofield, of New Hampton, approached Town Administrator Barbara Lucas and pointed out that there were three Veteran Memorials in New Hampton, the Civil War and World War One monument located on the Village Common, the World War Two monument located on the grounds of the 1798 Town House, and the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict monument and park located just across the highway on the Pemigewasset River. She pointed out that since the Vietnam conflict, there were many more actions in which New Hampton men and women served their country and there was no monument in Town to honor their service. Ms. Lucas brought this information to the Selectmen at their next meeting.

The Selectman agreed with Mama Schofield and formed the Veterans Memorial Park Committee and appointed four veterans and one civilian to the committee. A. Alden Hofling chaired the committee and Eugene Otis, Jerry Busby, Pamala Schofield, and Paul Tierney were the other members.

The committee was charged with developing a plan to include recommendations for the design, building, funding, and maintaining a memorial park to honor all the men and women in New Hampton and throughout our nation that have honorably served, are serving, and will serve. It was to be developed around a concept to cultivate an understanding of the sacrifices made by all veterans and their families during service to our country with additional emphasis paid to those who served in time of armed conflict to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. The Veterans to be recognized are from the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, POW/MIA, who served our Country during war and peacetime.

On January 4, 2013, the Committee presented a proposal for the Veterans Memorial Park to the New Hampton Selectmen. They proposed a wheelchair suitable walkway leading to a central plaza, a large center stone with a bronze plaque to honor all Veterans, two side granite pieces for each conflict to honor those Veterans from New Hampton who have honorably served, and a solar powered flagpole. The proposal called for a side granite piece to be added on either side of the center stone with each side piece representing any new conflict.

The proposal included the submission of a design for the memorial which was created by Mary Tierney of New Hampton.

The Selectmen accepted the proposal and voted to begin a fund-raising campaign to pay for the Memorial. While fund raising was being conducted, the United States found itself involved in numerous conflicts throughout the world and it became obvious that the original concept of a granite pillar for each conflict was not feasible and the design was changed to have one pillar for each of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Seed money for the fund raising was provided by a contribution that was raised by the Ellacoya Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star and the fund raising continued through the years. It was greatly assisted by an anonymous donor who matched the donations received. The Memorial you see here today was funded 100% by the generous support of the New Hampton community. The site work and erection of the granite pillars was accomplished by the New Hampton Public Works Department. The funds for the benches, that some of you are sitting on, were provided by The New Hampton School.

As I said at the beginning: "A good idea will not be denied! It may take longer than desired but it will come to fruition." - -

As we see here today.

It is fitting that we are gathered here on at 11:00 AM on this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, for it was one hundred and four years ago this date and time that an Armistice was declared ending World War One. That Armistice is the source of the Holiday we now call Veterans Day. This Veterans Memorial Park will honor all the New Hampton Veterans past, present and future, who serve in our Armed Forces. Some, who made the ultimate sacrifice, some who returned from the conflicts or service maimed, but almost all returned changed forever.

Thank you,

Paul J. Tierney

LCDR. USN (Ret)