Naming Town Property and Placement of Memorials

It is the policy of the Board of Selectmen that the naming of publicly-owned property shall be done sparingly, for good cause shown.

Requests for naming of any public property, such as buildings, rooms within buildings, playgrounds, recreational facilities, squares, parks and other public facilities shall be considered at an advertised public hearing before the Board or Committee responsible for operating the facility.

There will be a separate process for the naming of Conservation Lands. The name will be established as part of the process for approving the Management Plan. Requests pertaining to facilities under the care, control and custody of the School Department shall be referred to the School Committee in the first instance.

The Board or Committee shall then refer a suggestion or suggestions to the Board of Selectmen with a record of the hearing and a Committee recommendation for approval. If the facility is not under the jurisdiction of a Town Board or Committee, the request shall be referred to the Board of Selectmen who shall hold said public hearing before making a decision.

It is the policy of the Board of Selectmen that the renaming of a property be done very sparingly, for compelling reasons. Renaming of a property already named for a person or family shall be undertaken only by Town Meeting.

It is the policy of the Board of Selectmen that public buildings and facilities shall not be named for living persons.

It shall be the policy of the Board of Selectmen that the placement of memorials for a deceased Town resident or to commemorate a significant regional or national event or to commemorate the history and contributions of an ethnic or racial group within the Town of Norwell shall be done very sparingly, for compelling reasons. Memorials shall only be allowed for deceased residents who have made a significant contribution to the community.

Before any permanent memorial may be placed on Town property, the proposed site shall be reviewed by the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments for any public safety issues. Approval of the memorial shall require a vote of the Town Meeting.

October 10, 2012

Gregg McBride, Chairman