



Town of Arlington
Department of Veterans' Services
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Arlington, MA 02476

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October 26, 2021

Town of Arlington
Select Board
730 Massachusetts Ave
Arlington, MA 02476

RE: STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PARK DESIGNATION

The Honorable Stephen W. DeCoursey:

Prior to the pandemic, the Veterans Council began holding open meetings to explore various options for the creation of a Veteran Memorial Park. During these meetings, a number of alternate locations were presented to gauge the communities willingness to relocate the park from the center of town to a possible alternate location. The overwhelming feedback from veterans and non-veterans was not to relocate from the center of town and focus on improvements.

The council began to explore options to renovate the existing location. The first step was to determine ownership of the property. Jim Feeney has researched the records associated with this parcel and he provided the following information:

"The Board of Park Commissioners took the land via eminent domain in 1922 in order to locate a public park. While it is clear neither the Park & Recreation Commission nor the Recreation Department currently govern, program or exercise any control over the space, nor have they in recent history, it is not clear whether the parcel carries any Article 97 protection and/or requires any special votes."

Since this parcel was purchased with the intent to be designated as a public park, and we are looking to create a new Veterans Memorial Park, the intended use for this property will remain the same. Since this parcel will remain a public park, I hope any concerns surrounding Article 97 protections will be moot.

As I am sure you are aware, the current monument and Honor Roll are in disrepair. I ask that the Select Board move to approve this parcel to be officially designated as Arlington's Veteran

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Memorial Park so we can begin taking steps to design and renovate this area befitting the service of Arlington's veterans.

On behalf of the members of the Veterans Council, thank you for your time and careful consideration of this issue.

Very respectfully,



Jeffrey A. Chunglo

cc: Adam Chapdelaine