

## Monument Committee

### Agenda

6:30 pm, Thursday, March 11, 2021

Senior Center at Chet Hobert Park  
370 Al Smith Circle, Berryville, Virginia

1. Call to Order-Chairman Staelin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with all committee members in attendance, as well as members of the public and the press.
2. Approval of February 4, 2021, and March 4, 2021, Meeting Minutes-On a motion by Daniel Nelson and second by Will Nelson, the minutes from both meetings were approved as presented.
3. Discussion on the March 4 Open Forum-Committee members each expressed their thoughts and reactions to the open forum held on March 4. Generally, Committee members expressed that there was a good public turnout, a variety of opinions expressed, respect was shown by those attending, and Committee members felt they learned and benefitted from the forum. Several members commented that they wished more African-American citizens attended, but they knew their views had been presented. Mr. Staelin stated that it is rare to see a representative sample of citizens attending any public meeting. The key is that all views are expressed. It is up to the Committee to give the proper weight to those views based on their knowledge of the community.
4. A brief discussion of the engineering report was submitted by Jay Corbalis- Mr. Corbalis briefly described an engineering report he voluntarily put together on the construction of the monument, based on his analysis of the structure which included using metal detecting technology. He explained his methodology and the challenges to moving the monument without it breaking apart or being damaged. Committee members asked several questions and thanked him for his work.
5. Discussion on Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors-Chairman Staelin handed out a document (attached) he developed based on the different options he felt were available to the Committee. These options were based on the research conducted by the Committee to date, and the comments heard at the public forum. Each Committee member shared

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their thoughts on the different options and what they had learned through the process. After some discussion, the Committee voted on the following recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, "The Committee recommends the monument remain in the current location, contextual signage be added near the monument, and the County gain ownership of the monument in order to properly maintain and insure it. The Committee further recommends the County work with the art and history community (and donors/foundations) to turn the courthouse green into an educational area with monument(s), equal in impact to the existing monument, representing and memorializing other Clarke residents. Consideration should also be given to renaming one or both of the existing courthouses to recognize the contributions of individual(s)". The motion passed 7-1 with Daniel Nelson dissenting. Chairman Staelin informed the Committee and the public in attendance that he would present the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors at their March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting during the evening session.

6. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

**Goal: A recommendation that will have broad community support and move the community forward in a united manner.**

Committee Recommendation - Options	Possible Next Steps
<p>1. Keep the monument. Suggest that the BOS leave everything pretty much as it is.</p>	<p>Ask BOS to either get ownership or search for "owners" and help them reorganize Association.</p>
<p>2. Turn the Green into a combination memorial/educational area that tells a more complete story. Keep the monument. Add contextual signage and a monument(s) to Thomas Laws, the African-Americans who served in the Union Army or others. Possibly broaden the scope of the memorials to include historic Clarke people and events from other generations.</p>	<p>Suggest type of interpretive signage. (QR code, plaque, etc.)</p> <p>Suggest issues to be covered in the signage.</p> <p>Suggest other people or events to be memorialized.</p> <p>Identify sources of funding.</p> <p>→ Ask BOS to either get ownership or search for "owners" and help them reorganize Association.</p>
<p>3. Move the monument. Do nothing else. Keep County property free of monuments.</p>	<p>Investigate where the monument might go.</p> <p>Get cost estimates.</p> <p>Identify sources of funding.</p> <p>This option would require the County to gain ownership. If the County were to succeed in that endeavor the question would be, should the BOS conduct an advisory referendum?</p>
<p>4. Move the current monument. Erect other monuments on the Green. Possibly a Unity Monument (listing the names of all the Civil War Solders who died – North and South) or monument(s) to Thomas Laws, the African-Americans who served in the Union Army or others.</p>	<p>Investigate where the current monument might go.</p> <p>Get cost estimates.</p> <p>Identify sources of funding.</p> <p>Suggest other people or events to be memorialized.</p> <p>This option would require the County to gain ownership. If the County were to succeed in this endeavor the question would be, should the BOS conduct an advisory referendum?</p>
<p>5. Recommend the BOS work to gain ownership. If successful in that endeavor conduct an advisory referendum. Make no other decisions until after the referendum.</p>	<p>None</p>