

# Veteran's Memorial Park Update

By Dr. Stephanie Roper

Anyone driving through South Lyndeborough in the last few months might have noticed a few changes with the village common. The Christmas tree is gone, as are many other small trees, bushes and weeds. The World War I monument and the World War II and Korean War monument, which had been situated in front of the library, have been brought back from the town center and been added to the common. The Navy cannon, a memorial to John Alonzo Hartshorn who was killed in the Civil War, has also been returned to the common, cleaned and painted.

All of this has been done through the efforts of the Monuments Committee.

The committee was appointed by the selectmen to determine what to do with the three wandering memorials. Chaired by Scott Roper, the committee consists of Lorrie Haskell, Walter Holland, Walter Holt, Paul Martin, Stephanie Roper, and Lorraine Strube. The committee has also had a great deal of input at meetings and volunteering at work sessions from Jessie Salisbury.

Since we started our work, the committee has accomplished a number of things. Initially, we determined that the best place for the monuments was to locate them at the village common. We have researched the history and boundaries of the common and history of the monuments. After well over a hundred work-hours volunteered by the committee and other community-minded citizens, we have cleaned up the common and have temporarily located the two memorials and the cannon there, with a plan to make this their permanent home. With the aid of Chappell Tractor and Walter Riendeau, we rebuilt the stone retaining wall along the runoff ditch that separates the common from the Smiths' property. We have also planted grass and flowers to beautify the common and set up a sign indicating where we are towards our fund-raising

goals, and will soon plant a new Christmas tree near the watering trough.

Thus far, we have accomplished the first phase of the transformation of the common in South Lyndeborough into a permanent place for the town's war monuments and Civil War-era Navy cannon. Yet we are far from done; we are initiating a four-year plan to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the South Lyndeborough village common. We are designing a layout that will add another monument—one to remember people from Lyndeborough who served in the Vietnam War. The common will include not only the

monuments, but also a commemorative brick walkway, plantings, and park benches, for a peaceful and reflective place. Our goal is to provide the village with a tasteful park to honor Lyndeborough's residents who served their country in war.

As part of our efforts, we have begun a fundraising campaign to finance the

beautification of the common without relying on taxpayer money. We are planning several fund-raising activities over the next four years, but we are beginning with commemorative bricks, which will be placed permanently on a brick walkway and platform in front of the war monuments. They will be a permanent reminder that you supported this memorial park for Lyndeborough's veterans.

As a committee, we would like to thank the following people and companies who have helped us with our efforts thus far. Jeff Shinn has proved to be invaluable with his knowledge, Walter Riendeau and Chappell Tractor, the Highway Department and Police Department have donated their time and labor, as have Chris Martin, Roger Crosby, Dan and Joseph Dupont, Bobby Niels, Nadine Preftakes, and Russell Haskell. We would also like to thank Rob and Daize Smith for being so kind and generous to the committee and the



efforts to improve the common.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time or expertise, or donate to the effort, please feel free to contact any of the members of the Monuments Committee. By buying a brick, volunteering, or helping in some other way, you can be part of our vision for a village common that all of Lyndeborough can be proud of.



## Veterans' Memorial Park Bricks - Order Form

**4" x 8" Rectangular Bricks**

**\$50.00 each**

(Up to three lines, with 12 characters per line. Available only in red with black lettering.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Inscription:** Please print clearly. Make sure to count blank spaces

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**Payment must accompany order.**

You may give your order form and check to any member of the Monument Committee: Lorrie Haskell, Walter Holland, Wally Holt, Paul Martin, Scott Roper, Stephanie Roper, or Lorraine Strube or Mail to:

The Lafayette Artillery Co.  
P. O. Box 222  
Lyndeborough, NH 03082

Please make checks out to The Lafayette Artillery Co.