



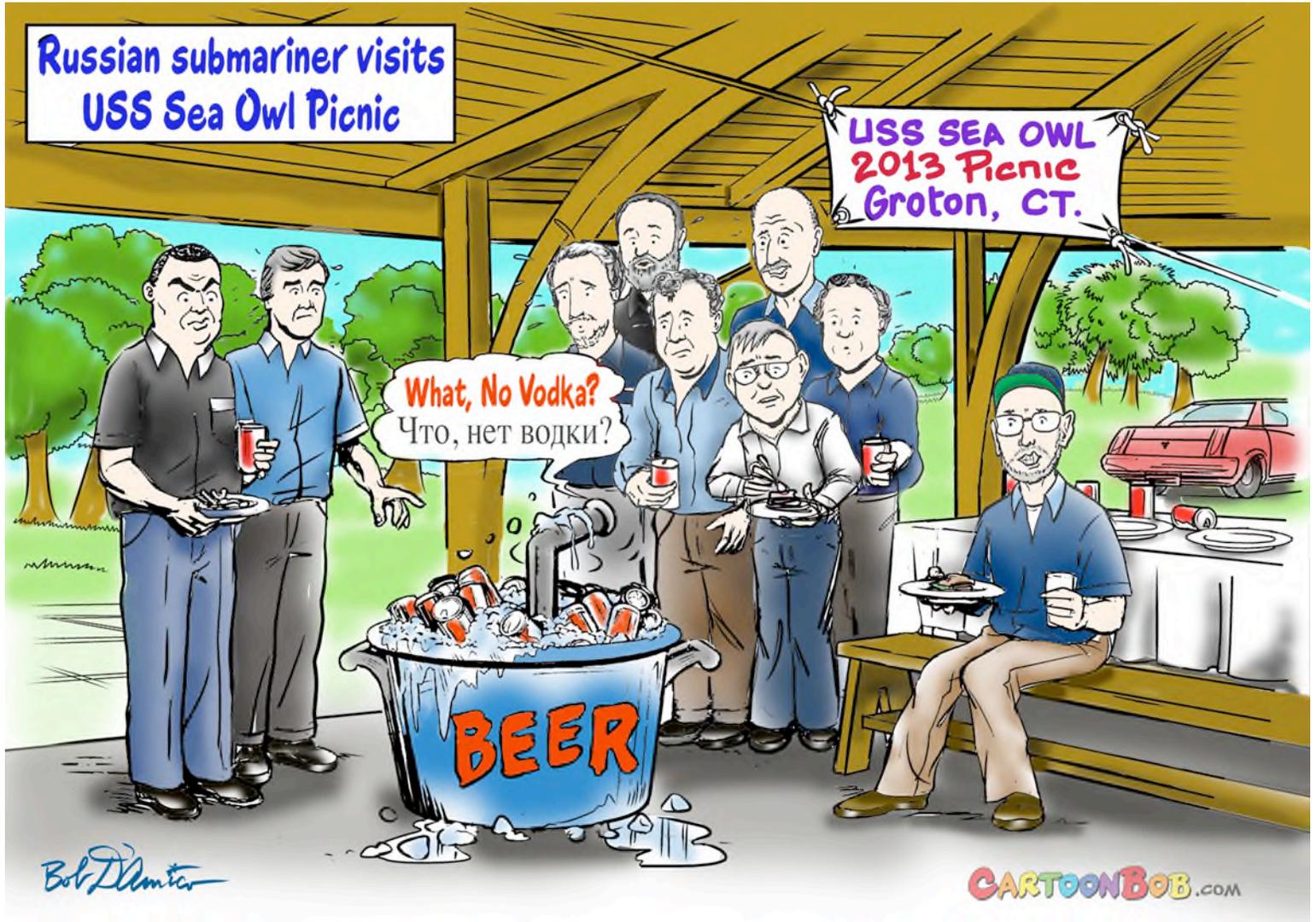
Hooter Hilites

A Publication of the USS Sea Owl Association

Web Site: <http://www.ussseaowl.com>

We still give a hoot!

June 2013 Issue



“Cartoon Bob” D’Amico’s Latest Explained

At this year’s Groton picnic, shipmate Ken Johnson invited a Russian submariner friend, Valery Grigoriev, who once served aboard the Russian cruise missile submarine that was a museum in Providence, RI from August 2002 to April 2007. This guest inspired “Cartoon Bob” D’Amico to create this cartoon for the occasion. (You may be in it if you attended this picnic or did recently.) Bob’s caricatures of shipmates are (l. to r.) Ed Welch, Ken Johnson, Bob D’Amico, Clyde Turner, Roy Purtell, Ken Nichols, Herb Lathrop, Harry Siska and Bob Kristian. (Ken Nichols and Bob Kristian were not at this year’s picnic, but had attended one in the past.)

Thank you Bob for continuing to provide such great cartoons for the newsletter!

President’s Message

Shipmates & 1st Mates:

I hope that everyone is having a safe and happy year thus far. With the storms that we are seeing in the news, I hope that our shipmates are not getting hit with these storms.

We just had our great summer picnic at Groton, CT. It was attended by many of your shipmates and a great time was had by all! We were all thinking that the rain was going to spoil our day, but on Saturday morning, it was sunny and beautiful! You could not have asked for a better day! All those that were there really appreciate the great foods that Ed Welch CS 66-69 and his family provided for us. The raffle drawing for the Bose Radio system was won by shipmate Herb Lathrop EN 68-69. I

can't say how much I appreciate those who attended the picnic for supporting the raffles that we had this year. We had a 50-50 that was to help reclaim some of the money that your Association sent to the students of the Florida Atlantic University High School. Your shipmate Bob Kail ET 64-65 wanted to send the school \$325.00 of his own money to support sending the students to Indianapolis for the National Competition. Instead, Ken Johnson and I decided that the Association would send the school the \$325.00 that they needed for the trip. Then after the picnic raffle, Bob Kail could cover whatever the balance was, which was then only \$100.00! This was in a large part to the winner of the 50-50, Bruce Blessington's QM 63-64 wife Marie returned her winnings back to the Association. Thank You, Marie !!

Florida Atlantic University High School Sea Owls

By Ken Johnson

Back in April Roy Purtell received an email from Allan Phipps at Florida Atlantic University about a group of high school kids at Florida Atlantic University High School in Boca Raton, FL who were entering in the SeaPerch competition. Since FAU's mascot is the owl, they did a search on the Internet and discovered that there was a submarine named USS Sea Owl. They wanted to name their ROV entry USS Sea Owl and asked our permission to do this. We not only gave it, but provided them support as well in several ways. For example our "Cartoon Bob" D'Amico created this design for the back of the T-shirts they wore in the competition.



As it turned out they did well enough in Florida state competition to go on to the National SeaPerch Challenge which

was held at Indianapolis, IN on May 18th. The result at Indianapolis you can read in the press release that they put out after the competition.



“The Sea Owls, an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) team from FAU High School, won **1st place in the Nation** for their poster presentation at the National SeaPerch Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 18th, 2013. Many months of hard work and preparation paid off for the Sea Owls, as they topped 83 other teams from across the nation to win this award. The team **also won the top Technical Director's Award**, also known as the “rubber ducky” award, for their innovative engineering design.

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). The SeaPerch Program provides students with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, and mathematics (STEM) while building an underwater ROV as part of a science and engineering technology curriculum. Throughout the project, students will learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, and technical applications.

This year's SeaPerch competition consisted of an obstacle course, a ring transfer challenge, and a poster presentation. The Sea Owls modified the basic SeaPerch kit (\$140) and created a revolutionary new variable buoyancy control system while still staying within the mandated \$20 modification budget. The Sea Owls also created a series of "mohawks" made out of zip ties that coaxed the rings off the rack. These systems distinguished the Sea Owls from the other teams.

Many people, including judges and naval officers, gathered around the Sea Owls' booth and were very interested in their design. **The SeaPerch Technical Director said the judges were “Blown away by the way the Sea Owls presented themselves, their vehicle, and their knowledge of the STEM concepts behind what they were presenting.”** Although the Sea Owls had two motor complications during the competition, they dealt with both quickly and efficiently. The Sea Owls are proud to have represented FAU, the state of Florida and their sponsors in a national competition. We would like to especially thank their sponsors: Resolve Marine Group, Advanced Green

Technologies, Advanced Roofing, Do it Best Hardware, Raer Autonomous Systems, the USS Sea Owl Association, and Florida Atlantic University.”

Sea Owl Reunion

By Roy Purtell

This issue of the Newsletter has the reunion registration form included with it. You can open and print a copy from our web site. As with any reunion, it won't work unless we get shipmates to attend. I must admit that this year's reunion was the hardest one for me yet, I don't know why, I just could not seem to get my head wrapped around it. Maybe it's that I'm doing many other things that take time or whatever it is. I'm really hoping that our shipmates don't let me down on attending this year's reunion. We really need to get as many to Cleveland as we can. I want to thank Ken Johnson for sometimes pushing me to get things done. Thanks Ken; I needed that pushing.

I have booked 10 rooms for Friday and 30 rooms for Saturday & Sunday. We have to get those 30 rooms filled for Saturday & Sunday. The Hotel Wyndham will give you the reunion rate of \$98.00 for 2 days prior and 2 days after our reunion dates. You will see that I have a hospitality room fee this year. This is to cover foods in the hospitality room, since all foods & drink in the hotel must come from them. On Friday, Saturday & Sunday, I have finger foods set up for the hospitality room from noon to 1400. There are cash bars in the hotel to enjoy. Being an inner city hotel, parking comes at a premium - Valet parking is \$20.00 per day (multiple in and outs), self parking is available one block from the hotel for \$12.00 a day. There are other lots around the hotel; I'm not sure what their prices are however. Come to Cleveland, spend some time there. It really is a great little city. The shipmates on the USS Cod will help us with a Memorial Wreath ceremony on Saturday, August 31st. I would really like to have a strong showing at this reunion & ceremony.

Last year I had the great pleasure of attending the USS Sea Poacher reunion in San Antonio, Texas. I extended an invitation to the Sea Poacher sailors to attend our reunion in Cleveland. Their Sea Owl contact is shipmate Bill Brinkman FN 59-60. Bill, I hope that several of your Sea Poacher shipmates can join us in Cleveland this year.

From the Editor

I hope you are as proud as I am that our boat was so well represented in the National SeaPerch challenge. These kids from Florida were really fired up for the challenge and I want to share this with you from an email that their advisor, Allan Phipps, sent out the day after the competition.

“The team is extremely excited to have well-represented FAU High, FAU, our sponsors, our State, and the USS Sea Owl Association at the SeaPerch National Competition. On the ride back to the hotel, they were making plans to:

- 1) Bring two high school teams to Nationals, one in the classic division and one in the open division (open means unlimited budget).
- 2) Mentor 3 middle school teams to get them to Nationals
- 3) Improve our ROV design to include some of the other innovative problem-solving strategies we saw other teams use.

4) START EARLY!!!

We would like to thank all of our sponsors again for helping us get to this point. A special thanks to our friends at the USS Sea Owl Association. Both our Sea Owl golf shirts and our Cartoon Bob t-shirts were a huge hit.”

I want to also thank those who contributed funds to help the team meet their goal of \$6,000 needed to finance the trip to Indianapolis including shipmates Bob Kail and Mike Polhemus. I am already thinking of how I may be able to give them some ideas for next year's competition when they want to compete in the “open division” where they are not budget limited for their ROV design. I was very impressed with how they managed to keep within the \$20 limit for “extras” to the basic \$140 kit in this year's competition!



As always, one of the saddest parts of doing the newsletter is the listing of those shipmates who have departed on “eternal patrol” since the last issue. In this issue there are more names to report than in any single issue that I can remember. We have learned since the last newsletter of the passing of these shipmates:

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| Richard Halloran – TM 45-48 – March 15 |
| Irving Roth – FT 45-46 – April 1 |
| Henry Fulkoski – EN 68-69 – April 10 |
| Robert A. Lowcher – SN 49-50 – May 1 |
| Noe S. Acosta – SD 66-68 – April 24 |
| Ernest Abel – LT 67-69 – January 6 |

We extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends of our departed shipmates.

*There is a port of no return, where ships
May ride at anchor for a little space
And then, some starless night, the cable slips,
Leaving an eddy at the mooring place . . .
Gulls, veer no longer. Sailor, rest your oar.
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.*

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The 40's

June 2013 Issue



Richard Halloran

by Ken Johnson

While looking for something to write about Richard Halloran, I came across this article apparently written about 5 years ago: <https://www.afrh.gov/afrh/rhalloran.htm> I have taken the following from this article:

Gulfport resident Richard Halloran, a retired Navy veteran, borrowed a little phrase from the Army - 'Be All That You Can Be' - and during his 29 years in the Navy, did he ever. Going against his father's wishes, Richard joined the Navy in 1938, at the age of 17. It was a combination of the overwhelming desire to serve his country and the reality of surviving in the final years of the



Great Depression that led Richard to the Navy. His father angrily signed his approval as Richard was underage and shortly he was off to do his part and make his way and he exceeded at both, in a very big way.

It was January 1939 before Richard actually left for boot camp and the young seaman recruit diligently went about beginning his career in the Navy, though he had no idea at the time what all that would involve. It was a roof over his head and three squares. About a year later he saw a note in the POD looking for men to volunteer for submarine duty. He was fascinated with everything about submarines and weeks later a submarine tied up to his tender and he remembers looking over at it and thinking, "That is what I want to do. I want to serve on a submarine."

Richard got submarine duty and a lot of it. He started as a torpedoman and throughout his career served on six submarines: the USS S-37 (SS-142), USS Scamp (SS 247), USS S-20 (SS-125), **USS Sea Owl (SS-405)**, USS Bergall (SS-320) and the USS Flying Fish (SS-229). He progressed through the enlisted ranks of the Navy until he achieved the rank of chief petty officer. It was at this point that he applied to the Navy's chief warrant officer program and was accepted and promoted to the rank of CWO2. From there, he applied to the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) Program and progressed to the rank of Lieutenant Commander before retiring with 29 years.

Richard saw a lot of action during WWII and made many submarine war patrols. On the USS Scamp's fourth war patrol,

in the New Guinea-Bismarck Archipelago Area, Richard received the Bronze Star Medal. The commendation he has cites him for his "outstanding skill and inspiring leadership of torpedo personnel in maintaining torpedo and torpedo tubes in a constant state of readiness, and his excellent supervision of firing of torpedoes, contributing materially to the successful attacks which resulted in the sinking of 14,600 tons of enemy shipping and in the damaging of 500 tons," signed by Rear Admiral A.R. McCann, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The following poem, written by Richard Halloran, is inscribed on a plaque and is on display at the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. He wrote it for his fellow shipmates of the USS Scamp. As fate would have it, he had received orders to transfer just days before the Scamp set out on her eighth war patrol on October 16, 1944, never to return. From records available, it appears the Scamp was sunk sometime around Nov. 11, 1944.

Won't Somebody - Please - Relieve The Watch

This submarine's still on patrol
Carrying 83 weary souls.
Some are on watch and some are asleep
But all are encased in the mighty deep.
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?

This patrol is a long one
Fifty full years to be exact.
Does anyone care that we are here?
Does anyone ever shed a tear?
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?

Do you know of our dreams and aspirations?
And how desperate we were to achieve them?
What of our families and what of our foe?
How did they fare and where did they go?
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?

Does anyone remember our last dive?
Do you know that we are still inside?
We ran silent and we ran deep.
Hoping and praying our souls to keep!
Now we are tired and all worn out - -
Won't somebody - please - relieve the watch?

(What can I add to this great article other than to say that I wish I had been able to meet him while he lived! Richard departed on "eternal patrol" on March 15th. This article was written by Mary Kay Gorminger who I assume worked at the Armed Forces Retirement Home at Gulfport, MS where Richard lived for 10 years before it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Rest in peace, shipmate! Others have the watch!)



The 50's

June 2013 Issue



Some comments from the FAU Sea Owl Team

Editor's Note: I wanted to include some personal comments from the FAU Sea Owls team and had this space available in the newsletter for them. I think as you read them you will share the pride we feel at being given the opportunity to help some truly outstanding kids. Their comments on teamwork in particular show that they learned what it is like to be a member of a team and work together, a lesson that we as submariners know all too well.

Gwen Field: "We were so very proud to represent the USS Sea Owl Association at the 2013 National SeaPerch competition and want to specifically thank a few select members for their contribution. We would like to thank Cartoon Bob for providing the t-shirt design used during the national competition. We would also like to thank Bob Kail for meeting with us at FAU Harbor Branch to share his experiences aboard the USS Sea Owl. We truly appreciate the USS Sea Owl Association's generosity in donating over five-hundred dollars towards our travel expenses. We couldn't have done it without you!"

Tahj Laguerre: "The SeaPerch competition was an amazing experience that really introduced me to the engineering world. I had no idea what I was getting myself into when we started what seemed like a simple ROV project back in October last year. Mr. Phipps really inspired us to think outside of the box and come up with creative ways to attack each challenge. I learned a lot about the engineering process, about time management, project management, and teamwork this year."

Nick Echeverry: "I'm so glad I got to participate in the National SeaPerch competition. It helped to give me some perspective about the success of true teamwork. The USS Sea Owls were an essential part of our team! Their stories and their service inspired us to work harder so we might represent the USS Sea Owl Association well at the national competition."

Janet Weinthal: "The national SeaPerch competition was absolutely amazing! I have never experienced anything like it! I now know for sure that I want to pursue a career in engineering."

Ian Walsh: "Competing was so much fun and I learned a tremendous amount about myself, my team, and our capabilities! If our team of high school freshmen can take 8th place overall in their rookie year, I can't wait to start working on the design for next year! We will be the team to beat!!! This project and the FAU Sea Owl team have given me a reason to try even harder at school so that I can make meaningful contributions to next year's ROV design."
(Finally there was this from their faculty adviser, Allan Phipps.)

Allan Phipps: "We are so truly grateful to the USS Sea Owl Association for all of their help this year. I am so very proud of our FAU Sea Owl team and the level of professionalism and poise under pressure they presented at our first ever national competition. Words cannot describe the look of satisfaction our team members had when they emerged from the poster presentation interview. Our team said the judges were 'speechless' and one judge just kept saying 'wow, wow, wow' over and over. We set a new bar for this competition and thoroughly impressed everyone at the competition with our innovation in design and the students' ability to describe their engineering process. When all of the scores were tallied, we ended up in 8th place overall out of 84 teams. I think this has fired up our team even more so than if we had won 1st overall! The team cannot wait for the SeaPerch organization to release next year's challenge. They are ready to prove themselves both on the poster presentation AND in the pool next year."

50th International Submariners Congress – Catania, Sicily

This year the International Submariners Congress was held at Catania, Sicily and the USS Sea Owl Association was represented there by shipmates Mike Jansen, TM 59-62 with first mate Theresa and Don Gregg, QM2 63-68 with first mate Betty. As he has done in the past since he was the only one from Canada attending, Mike Jansen represented Canada as the Head of Delegation from Canada.

Of the trip, Mike had this to say, "We enjoyed our 16 day trip to Italy. But without question, the highlight was the 5 day convention in Catania Sicily. We touched base with many members we met in 2010 at the convention in Israel. As well, we now have several new friends from the American delegation. The accommodations, meals and travel arrangements were first rate. We encourage all Sea Owl Sailors & First Mates to check out The International Submariners Association/USA. It's amazing how much boat sailors have in common, regardless of which Navy they served with. There are relatively few people on earth who can truly relate to submarines and submariners. We think you will find it to be a rewarding experience."

Next year, for those who may be interested, the 51st congress will be held at Perth/Fremantle, Australia. It will feature the upcoming 100-year celebration to be held by the Australians, for 100 years of their Submarine Service. This celebration will be centered in Perth/Fremantle during November, 2014. Many of our U.S. Submariners from WWII served in Australia. While Sea Owl did not operate out of Australia during world War II many U. S. Navy submarines did.

Events for SUBWEEK to be held in November 2014 in the Perth/Fremantle area can be found on line here for those who may be interested: <http://www.aussubs100.com/subweek.html>



The 60's

June 2013 Issue



Winner of the Bose Wave Radio

When we purchased the Bose Wave system, we decided that we would hold the drawing for it either at the Groton picnic or at the reunion at Cleveland. Since we had sold enough tickets, we had the drawing at the picnic. The winner was shipmate Herb Lathrop, EN2 68-69 shown here with Roy Purtell. Congratulations Herb!



Many photographs were taken at the picnic and you can visit shipmate Bob D'Amico's gallery here on line to see them http://cartoonbob.org/Sea_Owl/2013-Sea-Owl-Picnic/content/index.html Among those pictures is this one of shipmate John Salerno.



The pretty young lady with him is his daughter, Wendy.

Ernest Abel

Ernest Walter (Mike) Abel, 80, Sebring, FL passed away on January 6, 2013 at Florida Hospital Heartland in Sebring.. He served aboard Sea Owl in 1967-69 as a Lieutenant. He retired

from the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean and Vietnam eras with 27 years of service as a Submarine Weapons Officer. He then worked 13 years for Analysis and Technology as a Nuclear Weapons Inspector. He has resided in Sebring for eight years moving from Cape Coral. In addition to being a member of Elks Lodge #2596, Cape Coral, where he served as Exalted Ruler 1999-2000 and the Moose Lodge of Sebring, he was a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4300, where he served on the Honor Guard. Ernest was also a Life Member of the USS Sea Owl Association

A Service with Military Honors was held graveside at Lakeview Memorial Gardens, Avon Park, FL. In accordance with the wishes of the family, the USS Sea Owl Association made a donation of \$50.00 to the VFW Post #4300 Honor Guard, Sebring FL.

Thresher Memorial

By Ken Johnson

This year marked the 50th anniversary on April 10 of the loss of USS Thresher in 1963. In addition to the memorial service, there was a dedication ceremony for a 129 foot flagpole at the Kittery Traffic Circle in Kittery, ME near the entrance to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The height of the flagpole is significant because each foot of its height represents one of the



129 men lost aboard Thresher. I attended the dedication ceremony for the flagpole and took this photograph afterward. The flag was lowered after the ceremony to give the concrete base adequate time to cure and to await installation of lighting which will eventually illuminate the flag.

After the flagpole dedication ceremony I happened to meet

Bruce Harvey and members of his family. Bruce is the son of CDR John Harvey who was the Commanding Officer of USS Thresher at the time of her loss.

Completion of this memorial is an ongoing process and the Memorial Circle and Memorial Park plans final design was approved the Kittery Planning Board on June 13th.