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**PEOPLE**

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Dick Aarons

People involved in the 9/11 memorial project gathered with the honor guard of police and firefighters that will pick up the steel from the World Trade Center to be used in the monument. From left are Paul Roche, Parks and Rec director; Chris Curnan, sculptor; Steve Zemo, 9/11 Memorial project coordinator; Jim DeLalla, landscape architect; Sue Manning, Rotary Club; Eileen Imparato, Rotary; Tony Ceretta, Rotary; Jill McGuire, Ridgefield Bank; and Rudy Marconi, first selectman.

# 9/11 memorial

## *The fund raising has begun*

**W**ith a site and design approved, the 9/11 Memorial Committee is launching a fund-raising campaign. Its goal is to raise \$20,000 by June 30.

The committee, consisting of Steve Zemo, Alison Greeley and Michael Breede, was appointed by the Board of Selectmen and was charged with obtaining the steel, selecting a site, developing a design and securing the requisite approvals.

"If all goes well, the committee plans to complete the construction this summer and have a dedication ceremony on Sept. 11, a year after the project launched," said Ms. Greeley.

"The Board of Selectmen and town agencies have been very supportive," said Mr. Zemo. "We have a site, a plan and the required approvals. Now we need the funds."

### The memorial

Working with Ridgefielders Jim DeLalla, a landscape architect, and Chris Curnan, a builder and artist, the committee developed a site plan and design. The 9/11 Memorial will be situated just off the recreation center walking path in the field along Danbury Road.

The centerpiece of the memorial will be a steel beam recovered from the World Trade Center site, which the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is making available to municipalities interested in developing a public commemorative monument.

In a statement of support for a 9/11 memorial in Ridgefield, First Selectman

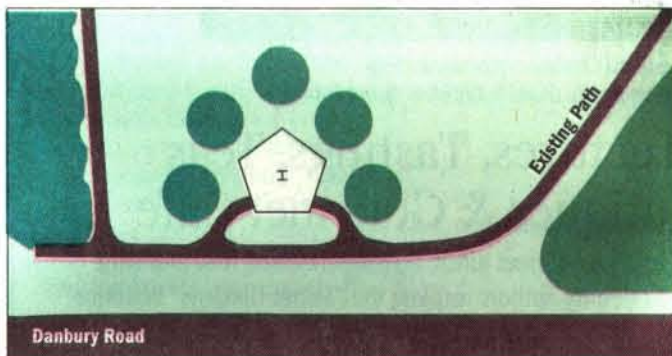
Rudy Marconi said, "On Sept. 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York City, Ridgefield experienced the loss of two members of our community — Tyler Ugolyn and Joe Heller. This monument will not only memorialize those young men, but also the many lives lost across the greater New York metropolitan area on that horrific day.

"The men and women who worked at the World Trade Center as well as those who risked their lives to save those caught in the middle of this

benches in tribute to the two Ridgefield residents who lost their lives.

Mr. DeLalla's design creates a reflective location with natural plantings.

"Providing a serene space to allow people to honor and remember Sept. 11, 2001 was important to the committee," said Ms. Greeley. "People have very strong, personal connections to 9/11, and they are not all the same. We wanted to respect that and create a reflective space for everyone — now and for future genera-



Ian Murren

The memorial will be on Danbury Road on the lawn of the Parks and Recreation Center land.

shocking act of terrorism will be remembered forever by this monument. Ridgefield will never forget."

Ridgefield's application for a steel artifact has been received and acknowledged by the Port Authority, which has been inundated with petitions. Requests for smaller samples are being fulfilled now — Ridgefield is in the queue for a 12- to 14-foot piece.

Mr. Curnan has designed a pentagon-shaped base to support the steel fragment, which will be flanked by two

tions.

### Approvals secured

"We are very pleased with the progress and the community's response," said Mr. Zemo, who encouraged Rudy Marconi to request the steel last September, prompting the Board of Selectmen to establish a 9/11 Memorial Committee and appoint members to develop plans for the memorial.

Once a site was agreed upon, the approval process went quickly. "The town agencies really supported us in this process," he said.

The memorial site and design was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Architectural Advisory Committee.

### A community project

Having agreed to build the memorial at no cost to the town and to provide funds for the ongoing maintenance, the committee has set a fund-raising goal of \$20,000.

"We want this to be for the community, by the community," said Ms. Greeley. "We'd like everyone to feel like they are a part of it and contribute what they can — no donation is too small."

In that spirit, there will be no donor names listed at the site. "This is a quiet, thoughtful place and we believe that donors will understand our decision to forego donor acknowledgments at the site or in the dedication," said Mr. Zemo.

The Rotary Club has offered to facilitate the fund-raising effort.

"The town of Ridgefield has always come together to honor those who have made sacrifices for our country," said Sue Manning. "It is an honor for The Ridgefield Rotary Club to help pay tribute to the people who were victims of terrorism and to the families who have suffered needlessly because of the actions of the enemies of the United States."

With the 9/11 Memorial Committee's non-profit status pending, tax deductible donations may be sent to: The Rotary Foundation 9-11 Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 41, Ridgefield, CT 06877.