

Human Services Subcommittee Hearing
September 9, 2016 4:00 pm Town Hall, room 103
Due notice was posted on the Town Website

ARTICLE 27: Submitted by: Naming Committee

To see if the Town will approve the name of a square at utility pole 44/16A, near the Northeast corner of Cypress and Brington Street as Walter F. Brookings Square or act on anything relative thereto

ATTENDANCE: Human Services Subcommittee members Lea Cohen, David-Marc Goldstein and Sytske Humphrey (chair); Carla Benka (naming Committee) and Bill McGroarty (Veteran's Affairs Department)

BACKGROUND: Mr. McGroarty received a letter from Donna Wolfe, granddaughter of Walter F Brookings. She was moved to tears seeing her grandfather's name on the War Memorial and inquired about the possibility of naming a square for her grandfather.

Walter F. Brookings grew up in Brookline at 126 Cypress Street (currently the site of the Mobile gas station). He was married and had a baby son. Mr. Brookings enlisted in the Air Force and began active duty on May 18, 1942. He was second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Forces 545 Bomber Squadron, 384th Bomber Group. He died in service over France on March 19, 1944 at the age of 24. He co-piloted a B-17 Bomber, named Lovell's Hummer, when his plane was shot down by flak and crashed. The pilots were able to keep the plane aloft long enough to enable 4 soldiers to exit the plane; both pilots died in the crash. Lieutenant Brookings left behind his wife and two year old son. He was a hero and was awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters and a Purple Heart. The final mission of LT Brookings took place 3 months before D-Day.

DISCUSSION

Lieutenant Brookings is a true hero and the sacrifice he and his family made are much appreciated and deserve attention. Much of the discussion was focused on the placement of a plaque and pole to hold it. It was thought that pole 44/16 at the exact corner of Cypress and route 9 (a state highway) may not be the best location. Discussion centered around possible creation of a new gateway into Brookline and projects that are now being studied for future development. There are three additional poles in the area: 2 on the Mobil Station side and one on the corner of Brington Road and Cypress Street. The subcommittee and all present were in agreement on placing the plaque for a square named after Walter F. Brookings on the pole at Brington and Cypress.

By unanimous vote, the subcommittee voted 3-0 in favor of the following vote:

VOTED: that the Town will approve the naming of a square at the utility pole near the Northwest corner of Cypress and Brington Road as Walter F. Brookings Square.

The following websites also provide information about second lieutenant Walter F Brookings

www.americanairmuseum.com/person/219483

www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid

<https://www.geogravesllc.com/...and.../walter-f-brookings-normandy/www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=53431>

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/370843350542331800/>

www.americanbattlegraves.com/index.php?page=directory&rec.