

LAKE GEORGE MIRROR.

"THE QUEEN OF AMERICAN LAKES"

LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK, January 2024



If approved a memorial plaza will join other monuments in the Lake George Battlefield Park.

Battlefield Park Memorial Plaza Before the APA

By Mirror Staff

Plans to reinter the remains of scores who died at the smallpox hospital at Fort George in the first years of the American Revolution were scheduled to be discussed by the Adirondack Park Agency at its January 11 meeting.

According to Dan Barusch, the Lake George Planning Director who chairs a committee spearheading the effort, a memorial plaza would be constructed to entomb remains discovered at a local construction site in 2019, along with those found in other areas of Lake George over the years.

The memorial would be situated on the east side of Fort George Road, within a short walk from the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center.

The proposal requires the support of New York State, which owns Battlefield Park and whose

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Department of Environmental Conservation manages it, and the APA, which must approve any alterations to state-owned lands.

"We're moving through the approval procedures of the DEC and the APA, supported by favorable comments from Governor Hochul's office," said Barusch.

Chuck Vandrei, a DEC Historic Preservation Officer who has

helped lead the archaeological studies of the Lake George burial sites, was scheduled to brief APA members about the project.

According to Barusch, building the memorial plaza could cost as much as \$500,000.

The "Repose of the Fallen," as the memorial will be named, is, however, likely to be funded by a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization grant, awarded Lake George on December 27.

In fact, as one of the

revitalization plan's "anchor projects," the memorial plaza helped Lake George secure the award.

"It's unique," said Barusch. "No one had seen a reinterment project, still less a historic preservation project within a state park."

Barusch said he anticipates a Memorial Day, 2025, dedication.

County Route 11 Closed to Outbound Traffic