

The Telegraph

It's Your Community.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from www.nashuatelegraph.com

To print this article if a print dialogue does not open automatically, open the File menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Published: Sunday, October 23, 2011

Construction of Holocaust memorial starts in Nashua

By JAKE BERRY

Staff Writer

NASHUA – Plans have been coming together for years for a Holocaust memorial in downtown Nashua, but the foundation is just now taking shape.

Construction crews took the first steps Friday toward building the memorial, setting a frame for the concrete foundation next to Rotary Common on Main Street.

The memorial is still years from completion. Workers will return this week to pour the concrete, and the body of the statue by local sculptor John Weidman won't be constructed until the spring at the earliest.

"This is the start," said Weidman, who was recruited by former Nashua Alderman Fred Teeboom to take part in the project. "It's the start of a long process, but it's good to get it going."

Teeboom, who lost much of his extended family during the Holocaust, first conceived of the project in 2009, and he quickly enlisted Weidman, director of the Andres Institute of Art in Brookline, for the sculpture.

Together, the two developed the design – six granite walls representing the six death camps operated by the Nazis during the Holocaust, among other pieces. And they set about raising funds for the \$150,000 project.

Last year, the Board of Aldermen agreed to pay about \$6,500 for general site work and to create four parking spaces on the site, next to Steve King Auto. But the remaining funds will come from private donations, said Teeboom, who grew up in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Members of Holocaust Memorial in Nashua have raised about \$40,000, Teeboom said. That money has gone to the initial design and a preliminary engineering study, and it will cover the laying of the foundation.

Once the concrete is poured, construction will stop until the spring, when planners hope to have enough money to continue the work.

The basic construction should be complete next year, with landscaping and other final touches to follow in 2013, Teeboom said.

"When people see it going up, they'll see it's not just a paper thing," Teeboom said. "Hopefully that will help" raise money."

When it's complete, the monument will be 28 feet in diameter. It will consist of the granite walls, each engraved with barbed wire and the name of a camp on the back. A black cube will sit in the center, showing the reflection of all who come to visit.

"We see ourselves in that," Weidman said of the cube. "It's a dark period in our history that we have to acknowledge."

The message of the memorial "is we can't withdraw from the things going on around us," he said.

Jake Berry can be reached at 594-6402 or jberry@nashuatelegraph.com.

© 2014, The Telegraph, Nashua, New Hampshire