

March 23, 2020

Adrienne Etzler
17024 Wood Lane
New Haven, IN 46774

Mayor Joseph Kelsey
22735 Main Street
Woodburn, IN 46797

Dear Mayor Kelsey,

I am writing to request a Woodburn Wishing Stone to be added underneath the clocktower. I am a fifth grade student in Mrs. Price's class at Woodlan Elementary. This would be a positive addition to our Woodburn community because it would share a message of encouragement. The wishing stone provides people with hope because they can make a wish for someone else or themselves.

Kindness is free to give, but priceless to receive. I believe this positive message could make a difference. This gift of kindness would say something like this:

Woodburn's Wishing Stone
"Make a Wish, or Take a Wish"
Mrs. Price's 5th grade class

We read a story in class called *Sleds on Boston Commons*. In the story, they had a wishing stone for the people of Boston. Someone made a comment on how a wishing stone is a good idea and that was how everything got started. The story took place during the American Revolution. There were hard times in Boston, and the soldiers for King George were roaming Boston's streets and limiting the citizens' activities.

The Wishing Stone is something that Woodburn needs now more than ever. Many people are worried about their family and friends. The coronavirus is causing people to worry about the future. People are wishing for a vaccination to prevent the loss of lives. The Wishing Stone would help spread kindness through the Woodburn community. A small kindness can make a big difference. Please consider allowing my class to provide a Wishing Stone for the people of Woodburn. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Adrienne Etzler

Dear Mayor Kelsey,

3-24-20

I think our community needs a Woodburn Wishing Stone. I think we need one because if someone was walking on the sidewalk they could go near the stone and make a wish. If we had a wishing stone that would make us a better town I think. Don't you think we need a town stone? In Woodburn you could always go up to the stone and either take a wish for yourself if you are in need or make a wish for someone else in need. Now you can see a few of the many reasons our town needs a wishing stone.

Each year at school we usually have a different kindness activity we can do. This year in our class we are doing 100 kindness acts and once in a while we can choose one of the 100 to do. We also have a kindness confetti activity where if somebody helped you or let you borrow something you would take a colorful sticky note and put on the window saying what they let you borrow or helped you with. For last years kindness activity we wrote one word or saying on a rock and decorated it and then went and hid them in the neighborhood. Wouldn't you like to be kind? Now you can see a few of the kindness activities we do at school.

We originally got the wishing stone idea from the story " The Sleds on Boston Common". In the story people wished on their town wishing stone that King George would stop his harsh laws. The main characters of the story are Henry, his sister Kate, and his brothers Ben and Colin. Would you have made a wishing stone if you heard the story. The story " The Sleds on Boston Common" originally took place in Massachusetts during the American Revolution. Now you can see why we thought the wishing stone was a good idea.

With the problems in the world right now i think everyone should have a wishing stone in their town. When you would go by the stone you could wish for everyone to be safe including yourself. Don't you want everyone to be safe? Even though we can't leave unless it is an emergency this could be an emergency because you could have a chance of saving someone. With all these sick people and families that have lost family members they could really use a wish. Everyone should have a town wishing stone and that is why we want to have the Woodburn Wishing Stone.

- Kalena

Dear Mayor Kelsey,

My name is Kaitlynn Baxter, and I believe the Woodburn Wishing Stone would be great for our community, because it would help spread kindness and take our mind off the current issues of Covid-19. It would be something out of the ordinary, for the people of Woodburn to go see. If someone was in a bad place, they could walk down to the Woodburn Wishing Stone and make a wish for something, or someone, to help them. The Wishing Stone can bring our community together and make us stronger.

The Wishing Stone can bring more kindness to Woodburn. The people of Woodburn can go to the Stone to make wishes for others in need. They can wish for others to get items they would be able to use, like a wheelchair or crutches. They can pray for anything good to happen. If people start wishing for the good to happen, they may start acting on it. More people will start doing good things for others in need.

The idea of the Woodburn Wishing Stone came from a story. The story was about a boy named Henry and his siblings. The book talked about British soldiers being in Mississippi because King George the third was angry about them not paying taxes. Henry wishes on the Stone that the soldiers would go away and that their life could go back to normal. It gave him hope when everything was sad. The kids eventually got their home back from the British. The Wishing Stone brought the kids hope and we decided it would be great to have a place of hope in Woodburn.

The World we live in today is always changing. The World is now quiet because everyone is having to stay home due to the Corona Virus. The people here are losing their jobs, some stores and restaurants are having to close down, since people can't be in the same place, and people are taking more supplies than they need. People are now feeling scared, angry, and depressed because of this. If we put the Wishing Stone by the big clock in Woodburn, it would give the people something else to think about, a reminder of good deeds, and a new destination they could visit. I hope you consider putting a big Woodburn Wishing Stone in our town.

Sincerely,

Kaitlynn Baxter

Dear Mayor Kelsey,

Hi! I'm sure by now you've heard of our Wishing Stone project we are planning to do but I want to tell you more about why we chose to put a Wishing Stone in Woodburn.

Woodburn is a great community. But every community needs a bit more kindness, so that leads us to our first topic, kindness. Perfect way to add that bit of kindness is a Wishing Stone. Our community is a smaller one, but everyone here has big hearts and lots of determination so what do you say? Every community needs something that makes people happy and spreads kindness! So, do you think we need a Wishing Stone?

Kindness is a big thing for everyone! Whether you compliment somebody's sweater or donate to a charity, even just a little kindness can go a long way! Making a wish for someone or yourself is a great way to spread kindness! But, your wish cannot be about getting money or getting something that you want. Maybe you are not feeling good, you could wish that you feel better! Or, if your friend is hurt, maybe even if your family member is hurt, you can wish that they get better or feel better. We can spread kindness this way! Make a wish or take a wish! So let's spread some kindness with the Wishing Stone!

Our story that we read that inspired our Wishing Stone project was: "Sleds On Boston Commons". The story takes place in Boston and there are 4 children as the main characters. In Boston, King George and his army had taken over and had taken advantage of the city. And, when they took over Boston Common, the place where the children sled the youngest one stood up for the common and told the soldier that he wanted it to still be a sledding area instead of a camp. The point is, they had a Wishing Stone in their town! So that got us talking and we wanted to have a Wishing Stone in Woodburn! Although this is not true, it is very cool! That is the story that inspired us to do the Wishing Stone project!

Our current world is kind of sad right now. The Coronavirus, wars, shootings, and things like that are bringing us down. We need something to cheer us up. Something like the Wishing Stone! If you're feeling sad or down in the dumps, maybe you could make a wish or pray there. It would be a safe space. Maybe someone you love got really sick or hurt, you could wish for them to get better! There are so many ways to wish, pray, and spread kindness and cheer to our world! This is why I believe a Wishing Stone would be perfect in Woodburn!

Sincerely,
Carsyn Wills
5th grade
Mrs. Price's Class

Dear Mayor Kelsey,

The Woodburn wishing stone is a big deal for us, and here is why. It would help the community in so many ways. People can make or take a wish whenever they pass by. The people who helped would feel good, knowing that they helped make it.

We are working on kindness so it especially helps with that. It is just a nice thing to do. The stone is a gift to everyone and everyone who has made it possible is awesome. Some people just really need the hope of a wish and the wishing stone would make it possible. People will be happy to have something they have never had.

The story "Sleds on Boston Common" had a wishing stone. The story inspired us to do this project. They used it when times were bad. With times being bad, like they are now, so people could use it. It can surely make people happy.

The world is changing in some bad ways. Some people are sad, hurt, and need someone to be there for them. This stone could help people wish and pray for the current situations we are facing. In all things, God is in control, but having a place to come to wish, pray, and think could benefit many people. So the Woodburn wishing stone is good for those reasons.

Sincerely,

Levi Lautzenheiser