



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

**MEETING MINUTES
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2022 6:00 p.m.
IN-PERSON MEETING ONLY**

**Location: Suffield Police Station Conference Room
911 Mountain Road Suffield, CT**

Meeting Name: Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee

By: Rebecca Sypek - Recording Secretary

Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Present

Dave Gauthier, Chairman
Salvatore Covino
Tom Elmore
Fredrick (Fritz) King
Kevin Goff
David Shute
William Moryto, Vice Chairman

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent

Raymond Hartford
Chris Nikolis

Dave Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a roll call identifying members present at the meeting.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meetings held on September 12, 2022. Fritz King motioned to approve the minutes and everyone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss timeline/schedule

Jay D'Aleo from Rogers Memorial was having issues getting material for stencils but got it now. He will call Dave Gauthier the day before to let them know when the names will be added to the memorial. Tom Elmore

recommended double checking the spelling on the stencils before they put the names on the Memorial. Dave Gauthier said he would be there for the engraving and do that.

Applicant review status

All applicant reviews are done but two more need final signatures after the meeting.

Discuss Dave Gauthier's meeting with the Board of Selectmen

Dave Gauthier went to the Board of Selectmen at their previous meeting and discussed the Committee's goals vs what the Board of Selectmen charged the Committee to do initially. He stated that the Committee wants to expand their scope and expand the memorial. The Board of Selectmen recommended a general memorial to honor all veterans that have served vs multiple memorials that specify Peacetime, Disabled, Non-Combat Losses, those that moved to Suffield after service, etc. since they believe there will always be an additional category that someone may come up with and something more generic would cover any and all potential categories.

Dave also discussed more specifics with the Board of Selectmen about the criteria the Committee was thinking of for those that moved to Suffield after service. The Board of Selectmen were concerned about the ongoing addition of names into perpetuity and may prefer that, once this expansion is done, they don't need to worry about adding names again until the next conflict, when they may convene a new Committee. Dave was asked to discuss all this with the Committee and come back to the Board of Selectmen at a future meeting for further discussion.

The Committee discussed the pros, cons, and ideas for the logistics of a memorial that honors those that moved to Suffield after service. Dave said that, if the Committee wants to present this idea to the Board of Selectmen, a very simple list of eligibility requirements would probably be the Committee's best course of action. There were many ideas thrown around and after discussing the below motions were brought forward:

1. Motion to revise the previous agreement to have separate memorials for disabled, peacetime and non-combat losses into one memorial that recognizes all men and women who have served in the armed forces.

William Moryto motioned to approve this motion and Fritz King seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion to go forward with presenting the Board of Selectmen with the idea for a separate memorial to recognize all veterans, by name, whose principle residence was Suffield for a minimum of 20 years after entering active duty and meet all other requirements identified by this Committee, with the exception of residence at time of entering active duty.

Dave Gauthier motioned to approve this motion and William Moryto seconded. Salvatore Covino abstained. Motion passed unanimously by remaining members of Committee.

Dave will take the above motion and the exact criteria list to the next Board of Selectmen meeting and see if they agree to have the Committee proceed with it or not.

Discuss the extent of additions and changes to Veterans Park

Dave Gauthier said that at the prior Board of Selectman meeting he wanted to talk to them about expanding/updating the overall Park. The Board of Selectmen said they'd like the Committee to come to them with recommendations, so the Committee will need to discuss this at the next meeting.

Discuss and approve Phase two war/conflict requirements

This and the discussion of additions and changes to Veterans Park will be tabled until the next meeting. Kevin Goff motioned to approve this motion and William Moryto seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business and Next Steps

Dave will go back to the Board of Selectmen with motion and additional discussion.

Public Comment

None

A Regular Meeting of the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee will be held on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Dave Gauthier motioned to adjourn, Salvatore Covino seconded at 7:53 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Sypek
Recording Secretary