



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

**MEETING MINUTES
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 9, 2023 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
Fredrick (Fritz) King
Tom Elmore
Kevin Goff

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent

Chris Nikolis
David Shute
William Moryto, Vice Chairman
Raymond Hartford

Dave Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a roll call identifying members present at the meeting.

Public Comment

Dave Gauthier talked to someone at the last veteran's breakfast about the Committee's idea for eligibility and the "Global War on Terror" title that is being considered. The person he spoke with was unhappy with that title and stated that he would want a specific differentiation of the place he was stationed (Afghanistan) if he were to be on the memorial, so Dave wanted to note this public comment he received for the record.

Tom Elmore asked if the committee should have a public hearing with veterans to discuss this and see what veterans of this era would say. Fritz King also offered the idea of having this discussion as part of the next veteran's breakfast he hosts. Dave thought this might be a good idea and this will be discussed further.

Approval of the Minutes

Tom Elmore abstains since he wasn't present so the approval will be tabled until the next meeting when a quorum can be established.

Discuss Dave's meeting with the Public Works Director (PWD) and Permanent Building Commission Chair

Dave Gauthier had a meeting with Kevin Goff and Chris Matejek. They all agreed the committee doesn't need new surveys drawn up for this phase of the project since they are still accurate aside from slight changes to the sidewalks. Kevin scanned the existing survey and updated them to reflect those changes.

Discuss Dave's meeting with PWD and Roger's Memorials

Jay from Roger's Memorials said his recollection was that the original idea for expansion was 2 stones on the Main Street side. After talking with Dave Gauthier, Jay recommended these two stones be designed with branch emblems and veteran names on the inside, facing Veterans Park, and the outside, facing the street, blank for future conflicts. However, Dave Gauthier thought it might be better to have the branch emblems on the outside and the names on the inside, but this can be discussed further later in the process.

In order for the stones to be big enough to fit in with the existing memorial, Jay recommended they would need to be 10" wide, 4' tall and 10' long, with a 1' pedestal. He said he could design the memorial to match the existing one, stone, molding and all. He commented these stones would fit 300 names per stone (on each side). With placement along Main Street, both Jay and Dave believe they will not obstruct the view of the existing memorial.

Tom Elmore said, if the committee liked the size that was suggested, he could make a mockup in cardboard so that the committee members can get an idea of what it would look like in real life. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea.

Dave said Jay did show him an idea but wouldn't release it because the committee isn't in the stage to pay him. All discussions on potential design changes/ideas can be discussed later at the time of getting actual bids. The Committee also needs a list of names so that the design can be finalized in an appropriate size.

Discuss the extent of additions and changes to Veterans Park

Per above, the committee's idea is to have two stones be added along Main Street with a sidewalk and good lighting.

Discuss and approve Phase two war/conflict requirements

Dave Gauthier did some further research and confirmed that the Global War on Terror technically hasn't ended, it keeps getting extended per executive order. Most memorials don't get built until after a war has ended so the committee will need to determine an appropriate end date in order to create eligibility requirements. Also, the service medal that was previously discussed in the last meeting was changed as of September 2021, so this would affect the previously discussed potential requirements. The committee will need to consider all this when finalizing requirements.

The idea of having names listed under Afghanistan, Iraq, and "Global War on Terror" to encompass all other locations or having an overall "Global War on Terror" title with Afghanistan, Iraq, and "other" differentiated underneath, was discussed. This will need to be discussed further when the majority of the committee members are in attendance and, again, this will be brought to the public to see how other veterans feel, starting at the next veterans' breakfast.

Other Business and Next Steps

None

Public Comment

None

A Regular Meeting of the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee will be held on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Salvatore Covino motioned to adjourn; Tom Elmore seconded at 7:06 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Sypek
Recording Secretary