



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

**MEETING MINUTES
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 13, 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
Tom Elmore
Kevin Goff
Chris Nikolis
William Moryto, Vice Chairman
David Shute
Fredrick (Fritz) King

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent

Salvatore Covino
Raymond Hartford

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 December 12, 2022 and January 9, 2023. Kevin Goff motioned to approve the minutes, and everyone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss the extent of additions and changes to Veterans Park

Dave Gauthier talked with Roger's Memorials about two options for the new memorial. One option has bigger memorial stones with names on one side of one stone and a memorial serving all veterans on one side of other stone, with the other side of both stones blank for expansion. The other option was two stones slightly smaller with names on one side and the memorial serving all veterans on the other side, but this option would not offer room for future expansion. The cost difference between the two options would be the cost of hiring a crane, 30% more or less granite, and potentially additional walkway space. Both options will be designed more in depth once the committee has a list of names and will need to be presented to the Board of Selectmen at that time.

Discuss and approve Phase two war/conflict requirements

The discussion about memorial column titles was continued from the prior meeting. Dave Gauthier pitched the idea of using column titles to specify veterans under the titles of "Global War on Terror," "Iraq" or "Afghanistan". This way veterans who served directly in Iraq or Afghanistan would get specific designation and others served in other locations still get recognition under the umbrella of "Global War on Terror". The existing memorial doesn't specify locations for any prior wars so this would be a change from the existing memorial. Also, the potential issue with the "Global War on Terror" umbrella is that has no end date as of now so if the memorial has names organized alphabetically, like the existing memorial, that could create an issue down the line.

The idea of doing a survey to get veterans opinions on these groupings was discussed. It was decided that an application will be created for the "Global War on Terror" title for the committee to review at the next meeting.

Other Business and Next Steps

None

Public Comment

None

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

William Moryto motioned to adjourn; everyone seconded at 7:01 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Sypek
Recording Secretary