



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

**MEETING MINUTES
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 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
Kevin Goff
Fredrick (Fritz) King
Salvatore Covino
Tom Elmore

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent

Chris Nikolis
William Moryto, Vice Chairman
David Shute
Raymond Hartford

Dave Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 February 13, 2023. Tom Elmore motioned to approve the minutes, and Fritz King seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss the extent of additions and changes to Veterans Park

Dave Gauthier went back to the Southwick Memorial and liked the main memorial's design. It is 3 slabs together, the center one taller than the other two. He thought this might be a good idea to avoid the use of a crane and multiple memorials for this expansion, allowing for room for additional future expansion in the park.

Depending on the placement of said memorial, Tom Elmore suggested the option to mirror the expansion with a hedge to make it more appealing to the eyes. There was also suggestion of moving the existing walkway to make this expansion center to the existing memorial. This would allow for more options for the length as well. All of this will be discussed further as this phase progresses and once the Committee is ready to pay for a formal design.

Discuss and approve Phase two war/conflict requirements

Kevin Goff created a draft copy of an application for collecting names for Phase 2. The present Committee members agreed to collect names for just the "Global War on Terror" title and let those who want to specify Afghanistan or Iraq state that in the additional comments section. There was a recommendation to add a note stating that this application is for those who served in the Global War on Terror across the globe, just to clarify generality versus specific locations.

The Committee needed to determine an end date for collecting names since the Global War on Terror technically doesn't have an end date as of today. It was recommended to use August 31, 2021 as the cut off for eligibility for this phase of the expansion, since that's the date the Afghanistan portion of this War was deemed over. The draft copy will be revised and presented for further review and a vote at the next meeting.

Other Business and Next Steps

Dave Gauthier commented that ACCE has recommended \$50K in the budget for the Veterans Memorial Expansion, subject to Board of Finance approval.

Public Comment

None

A Regular Meeting of the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee will be held on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6 p.m.

Dave Gauthier motioned to adjourn; everyone seconded at 7:03 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Sypek
Recording Secretary