



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
 Minutes of April 11, 2023



TOPIC	DISCUSSION
PRESENT:	Members Robert Challinor Jr., David Gilbert, Alan R. Joslin, Michael Vassar, Jim Bradley, Hans W. Lowell. Willie Bousquet (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head) Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head). Arthur (Buster) Corey & Harold Charbonneau – Memorial Day Parade Committee.
ABSENT:	Brian Maynard.
1. Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance	
3. Public Comment	None
4. Approval of the Minutes	Approval of December 11, 2022 Committee Minutes. Motion by Mike V, 2 nd Barney S, no discussion, carried unanimously.
5. Communications	Bank statement received, current balance \$3132.47
6. Reports of Standing Committees	<p>A Cemetery Committee: <i>Digitizing Cemeteries:</i> Dave G has digitized Veterans burial locations, including maps, DOB, DOD & branch of service of 3 cemeteries (Putnam Heights, Munyan Rd, and Grove St). St. Mary, Nancy Drive & River Rd (may contain a Veteran) to come. Dave will send out info gathered so far to the committee for review. <i>Fundraising:</i> Hans L working on a fundraiser at VFW for material (pea stone) needed. Barney will reach out to vendor for best pricing once the locations & quantities needed are known.</p> <p>B Grove St Flagpole was ordered with paying ½ down, and ½ due at installation. Vendor says it will be installed by Memorial Day. Rob C to re-verify vendor is taking down old pole & placing new pole. Also checking to see if a flag (either 3x5 or 4x6) comes with the pole.</p>
7. Reports of Special Committees	<p>A VFW Easter event was inserted here by new secretary in error, but VFW reported great success with approximately 115 kids & 200 breakfasts served.</p> <p>B Fundraiser for Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization Project: Chicken BBQ tentatively scheduled for Sunday September 17, 2023 at the Knights of Columbus. Jim B to verify. (See also 8A)</p> <p>C Local Cemeteries: <i>No new information since topic was tabled at last meeting 12/11/22:</i> VFW Post 1523 has opened discussions with the St Mary Church Cemetery Association and the Park Street Cemetery Association to discuss</p>

		Liabilities in an ongoing project to locate and restore all Local Veteran's burial markers within the Town. Research is still needed on local privately owned Cemeteries to identify if there are any Local Veterans that have missed being honored in burial. The VFW Post will put together Liability Binders for the Cemetery Associations for project work. This project is to uphold the Town of Putnam's legal responsibility through CT General Statutes Title 27, Chapter 506 § 27-123. Discussion on establishing the 3 appointed Veterans for the Cemetery oversight task force taken and tabled. Alan Joslin, David Gilbert and Hans Lowell identified as points of contact.
8.	Unfinished Business	A Veterans Park Revitalization-Phase 1: Quotes for plantings (Viburnum from Sunset Nurseries \$3595), Killingly Fence (90' white vinyl \$4955), Electrical to come (Willie B). Motion by Jim B, 2 nd by Alan J to accept quotes as presented, , carried unanimously.
9.	Grant Consideration and Updates	As VAC is now a registered non-profit, they will begin searching in earnest for grant opportunities. Barney has spoken with Congressman Joe Courtney and will supply an update on that meeting soon.
10.	New Business	A Memorial Bricks: Stamped concrete brick project estimated at \$9500. Rob C to share design at May 9 th meeting. Order form will be developed soon so order taking can begin. B Memorial Day Parade & Event Committee: (now a standing committee and will be moved to section 6). Flags are in place at cemeteries. Things on track for the parade w/a Grand Marshal in place, State Road permit is complete, and participants so far include: Police, bugler, schools, 2 bands on vehicles, Scouts, WPTP. Goal is to get more participants in parade, application was circulated for input. More letters will be mailed out to past participants. Buster in charge of food for event after parade. Sidewalk work on Grove Street will not impact the parade, as they are installing sidewalks as they progress excavation. No open trenches will exist. Next parade committee meetings are at noon 4/27, 5/11, 5/25. C Need to appoint members at next meeting to act as trustees to complete Quarterly audits of the books and records: TABLED until next meeting May 9.
11.	Public Comment	NONE
12.	Adjournment	Dave G made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM. 2 nd by Michael Vassar, passed unanimously. Next meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Members: Robert Challinor Jr., David Gilbert, Alan R. Joslin, Michael Vassar, Jim Bradley,

Brian Maynard, Hans W. Lowell.

Willie Bousquet (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head) Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head).

Memorial Day Parade & Event Committee: Arthur “Buster” Corey, Harold Charbonneau