



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting  
 Minutes of May 9, 2023

TOPIC		DISCUSSION
PRESENT:		Members Robert Challinor Jr., David Gilbert, Alan R. Joslin, Michael Vassar, Jim Bradley.  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, Hans W. Lowell.
1.	Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Quorum was met during roll call, meeting proceeded.
2.	Pledge of Allegiance	
3.	Public Comment	None
4.	Approval of the Minutes	Approval of April 11, 2023 Committee Minutes. Motion by Mike Vassar, Jim Bradley 2 <sup>nd</sup> , no discussion, carried unanimously.
5.	Communications	*See Section 9/Grant Considerations for info on Eversource grant opportunity.
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	<p><b>A Cemetery Committee:</b>  <i>Flag Placement in Cemeteries:</i> Dave G &amp; Alan J in progress with this, along with Rob C and the Scouts (going out Saturday 5/20/23.)  <i>Headstone cleaning/resetting:</i> St. Mary being worked on Saturday 5/20/23, pea stone being delivered (Willie to meet Rawson truck for the 1 yard to be dumped in assigned spot). Grove St &amp; Putnam Heights work to be done once paperwork is provided to their rep, J Shaw, who also wants to be present when pea stone is delivered to those locations.</p> <p><b>STATUTUE TO BE PROVIDED BY ROB C REGARDING COVERAGE OF VETERANS GROUPS WORKING IN CEMETERIES IF A HEADSTONE SHOULD HAPPEN TO BE DAMAGED.</b></p> <p><b>Grove St Flagpole:</b> installed. Media coverage by WINY Radio &amp; Putnam Town Crier mentioned that excess funds raised and not used for this project will go to the Veterans Park Project. Keys distributed to assigned VAC members, Rec Team.</p> <p><b>C Memorial Day Parade:</b> On tap: 2 bands, HS marching &amp; 3 songs, Putnam Police are prepared, National Guard coming both days &amp; flyover – thanks to Tom Pandolfi. Poppy Queens = Rilynne-Mae Sargent-VFW, Emily St. Martin-Am Leg. Press Release &amp; Jim Eccleston bio to come. Flag/Cases presentations: Jim Eccleston, Rollie Johnson, Barbara Smith (replacement flag). Nominations at large: Al Cormier-VFW, Eric Quinn-Am Legion. <b>NEXT Parade meeting Thursday 5/18/23 at noon.</b></p>

7.	Reports of Special Committees	<p>A <b>Fundraiser for Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization Project:</b> Jim B verified <b>Chicken BBQ scheduled for Sunday September 17, 2023</b> at the Knights of Columbus, approved by committee.</p> <p>B <b>Veterans Park Revitalization Project (Phase 1):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob C in communication with Ellis Tech re future electrical &amp; sidewalk work, for best value.</li> <li>• Fence is ordered &amp; paid for, delivery is estimated 6-8 weeks out.</li> <li>• Shrubs ordered.</li> <li>• Memorial Bricks: price has at least doubled + in recent couple of years, Rob C is seeking methods to keep costs reasonable.</li> </ul> <p>C <b>Other Topic(s):</b> Grove St bronze memorial statue washing to be completed soon.</p>
8.	Unfinished Business	Previous unfinished business now designated to appropriate specific topic areas.
9.	Grant Consideration and Updates	Barney shared news that Eversouce has grant funds available, which could be used for lights & materials for Veterans Park project. (See 7B). Fundraising for remained budget needs will be planned around the outcome of this grant.
10.	New Business	<p>A <b>Memorial Bricks:</b> See 7B, no longer new business.</p> <p>B <b>Quarterly audits:</b>  Appoint 3 members to act as trustees to complete of the books and records:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Barney volunteered.</li> <li>2) Barney nominated Dave Gilbert, Willie B 2<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>3) Alan J nominated Jim Bradley, Mike V 2<sup>nd</sup></li> </ol> <p>All accepted. <b>Audit to be conducted at July 11, 2023 meeting.</b> (This topic will be moved to Section 7 Special Committees for future reference.)</p>
11.	Public Comment	NONE
12.	Adjournment	Barney made a motion to adjourn at 7:58PM. 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Mike V, passed unanimously. <b>Next meeting Tuesday, June 13, 2023</b>

Members: Robert Challinor Jr., David Gilbert, Alan R. Joslin, Michael Vassar, Jim Bradley, Brian Maynard, Hans W. Lowell.

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