



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
 Minutes of July 11, 2023

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
PRESENT:	Members Robert Challinor Jr., Hans W. Lowell, 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).
ABSENT:	Brian Maynard, David Gilbert, Arthur (Buster) Corey & Harold Charbonneau – Memorial Day Parade Committee.
1. Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Quorum was met during roll call, meeting proceeded.
2. Pledge of Allegiance	
3. Public Comment	None
4. Approval of the Minutes	A Approval of May 9, 2023 Committee Minutes*. Motion by Mike V, 2 nd by Alan J. <i>Discussion regarding: BBQ Chicken date noted in May meeting: The event date is changed to Sunday, September 24, 2-5pm. See Section 8 unfinished business for up to date event info. Vote carried unanimously to accept the minutes.</i>
5. Communications	Givebutter.com fundraising info received in the mail. Motion by Rob C, 2 nd by Jim B for Hans to investigate the company.
6. Reports of Standing Committees	<p>A Cemetery Committee: Looking for youth groups to assist and help with inventory at Day & Wheeler cemeteries.</p> <p>B Grove St Flagpole/Monument: Area to be tapered at end of sidewalk project, eta September date.</p> <p>C Memorial Day Parade:</p> <p>I Program was ideal at 35 minutes, speakers all did a great job.</p> <p>ii Flags need replacing, getting tattered due to weather and aging. Willie B to order 40 sets</p> <p>iii Hometown Hero banners: currently 22-25 active Veteran flags, 3 recently done. Administered by Am Leg, but this committee is willing to take over project. Mike V to talk with AL Commander Mike R to confirm this is acceptable. Time is of the essence. Goal to have 20 orders ready by end of July to get banners produced for Labor Day. Review criteria for getting a banner, reach out to possible Veterans, get photos & payment in.</p>

7.	Reports of Special Committees	<p>A Veterans Park Revitalization Project (Phase 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Fence is in ii Shrubs coming iii Bricks: Rec dept is gathering names of people who want to donate (they mentioned tree/bench/etc, but these bricks are being suggested). Specs, size, characters allowed, number of lines, etc to come. Order forms and pricing as well as timeline, along with total of bricks that will be supported in project. <p>B Veterans Park Revitalization Project (Phase 2):</p> <p>Any changes to blueprints that were shared with committee to be sent to Rob C before next meeting as he will be contacting school in early September for next steps.</p> <p>Quarterly Audit: scheduled for July 11th meeting (Trustees Barney, Dave G, Jim B) was not completed due to the last needed bank statement was not yet available. The trustees will choose a time to meet and complete audit, which is due before the end of July 2023.</p> <p>Other Topic(s): none</p>
8.	Unfinished Business	Chicken BBQ fundraiser date is set for Sunday, September 24, 2023 served from 2-5pm at the VFW. (Jim B still in charge of cooking, and will cook at K of C – but food will be served at VFW)
9.	Grant Consideration and Updates	Rob C has reached out to foundations of 3 local banks (JCSB, Centreville, and bankHometown)
10.	New Busines	<p>A Uniform Memorials: nothing to report</p> <p>B Tree Removal (dead pine tree over graves) quotes for Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery: a couple of quotes have come in ranging from \$3000 - \$6000. Urgent situation – if this dead tree falls, it will land on many gravestones.</p>
11.	Public Comment	Brian Maynard’s resignation from the committee necessitates the need for his replacement.
12.	Adjournment	<p>Barney made a motion to adjourn at 8:06PM. 2nd by Mike V, passed unanimously.</p> <p>Next meeting Tuesday, August 8, 2023</p>

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