



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
 Minutes of October 10, 2023

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
PRESENT:	Members Robert Challinor Jr., Jim Bradley, Dave Gilbert, Michael Vassar, Willie Bousquet (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head), Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head).
ABSENT:	Alan Joslin, Hans Lowell Arthur (Buster) Corey & Harold Charbonneau – Memorial Day Parade Committee.
1. Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at PM. Quorum was met during roll call.
2. Pledge of Allegiance	
3. Public Comment – 3 minute maximum per person	None
4. Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)	Approve Regular meeting minutes from September 12, 2023 Barney made a motion, 2 nd by Jim Bradley, no discussion, all approved.
5. Communications	None
6. Reports of Standing Committees	<p>A Cemetery Committee: Dave G has St. Mary Cemetery done, approx. 1800 Vets, many stones not found. Willie B has ordered grave markers</p> <p>B Flagpole Grove Street Monument: sidewalks done, edges graded, grass planted</p> <p>C Memorial Day Parade Committee: Plan to start focus for next year in JANUARY to recruit participants. Goal to increase by at least 10 new additional groups (such as Aspinock Historical, PSA, Interact, etc)</p> <p>D Hometown Heroes Banners: 13 still on hand to go up Monday 9/18 (due to weather). Subcommittee to be formed by Hans for October meeting, to work on application, policy, etc, with goal of January outreach to those eligible under devised format. 35 new banners is the goal. Need line item for the banner funds to come and go into.</p>
7. Reports of Special Committee	<p>A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases: Shrubs: as soon as new arborvitaes come in, the viburnum will be moved out to other locations. Sidewalks & Electrical: material lists & costs to come. Jim B to seek donations from local vendors. Memorial Bricks (1859): Dave G to get a sample (grey bricks) & template to order by Oct meeting, confirming pricing to be approx. <\$25. Mike V made a motion to ask for \$100 donation per brick, Jim B 2nd, all approved, pending info from vendor. Goal: offer preorders to Veterans by October, then open to public for Veterans Day, hoping to sell many for holiday gift giving. Discussion continues on larger bricks for Vet orgs.</p> <p>B Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): next is due October 2023</p>

		<p>Other: Chicken BBQ: Vets Park Fundraiser, Sunday, September 24, 2023, 2-5pm eat in or take out at VFW. *\$15 tickets being sold @ VFW, through members, WINY, rec office</p> <p>*Sign up sheets @ 3 senior congregate housing locations, Hans to deliver to those locations that day (Marcy & Willie can also help).</p> <p>* WINY interview done & ads running</p> <p>*Rob/Jim have cooks, servers and other delivery people set up and ready to work</p> <p>*Flyer put on town VAC webpage & on town facebook page</p> <p>Beirut Annual Gathering: Mon 10/23/23, but most likely to be held Sun 10/22/23 am. Rec has done set up only for the event, Mike V to check with Michael R to see if American Legion will hand this event over to VAC for consistency of program as all Vets groups work together on it anyway.</p> <p>Wreaths Across America: All groups have worked together on this. Info to come.</p>
8.	Unfinished Business	<p>A Uniform (consistent) Memorials – no new info</p> <p>B Tree Removal Quotes for Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery: Mike V to get another quote</p>
9.	Grant Considerations & Updates	Nothing to report
10.	New Business	None
11.	Public Comment – 3 minute maximum per person	None
12.	Adjournment	<p>Jim B motion, Mike V 2nd, meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.</p> <p>Next meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7pm (2nd Tuesday unless otherwise noted)</p>

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