



TOWN OF SUFFIELD

**MEETING MINUTES
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
October 16, 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
Fredrick (Fritz) King
Tom Elmore

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent

Chris Nikolis
Salvatore Covino
William Moryto, Vice Chairman
David Shute
Raymond Hartford
Kevin Goff

Also Present

Jay D'Aleo, Rogers Memorial Studio

Dave Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a roll call identifying members present at the meeting.

Public Comment

None

Discussion with Rogers Memorial regarding design options/ideas

Three ideas were presented: The original design idea is two memorials that are 10 ft on 12 ft base, the second is two memorials that are 6 ft with 8 ft base, and the third is the same dimensions as the second, but with a “broken” edge. Rogers Memorial is officially under contract for design work.

The side one would see from Main Street, walking towards the memorial, would have the 6 emblems to show the different branches, along with some wording to honor those who served in war and peace times. Jay D’Aleo, from Rogers Memorial Studio, mentioned that he mimicked the top design from the original memorial on the design. Fritz King recommended that the branch emblems should be put in order of established date. Jay said that the emblems would be roughly a foot to 14 inches in diameter and would be sand blasted into the stone. He also recommended using the same company, Rock of Ages, that the original committee got the original memorial’s stone from for these memorials. They have a good lifetime guarantee.

Dave Gauthier likes the “broken” edge idea and Jay says that it will look very broken. Jay offered design ideas depicting the memorial stone and the base “broken”, or just the memorial stone “broken” with a clean base. Tom Elmore preferred the second option and others agreed. Jay described that the quarry hand chips the edges to make the two stones look like they were broken in half. They will make it look like the pieces would meet perfectly.

Tom asked if the base would be finished to match the other memorial or not. Jay said that there’s two options. An unfinished, rock base with a finished margin at the top would be better if lawn equipment would be around the base but the choice for base would be up to the Committee.

The side facing away from Main Street would have room for 180 names on each stone. As of now, the Committee only has 19-20 names so the question is: if the Committee doesn’t have many names at the time of establishing the expansion, should the Committee leave the second stone completely blank on one side for future expansion? There was discussion about different ways to head the name list if the Committee only gets a small number of names.

Dave asked when the deadline for accepting names should be. Jay recommended putting the order in for the stone manufacturing before the end of the year if the Committee wants the expansion installed by Veterans Day 2024; however, names can be added past that end of the year date. Jay said that he would call Rock of Ages to see if there’s any flexibility with that cutoff date. Dave suggested maybe spacing out the names so that people can be added somewhat alphabetically under the same war in the future.

Jay said that the Committee needs to decide on the size and finish of the memorial to finalize the design so that it can be put out to bid to see what company would install the memorial. Ideally the design will be approved at the next meeting, then a bid would go out and hopefully be approved by the beginning of the year.

Jay is going to update the designs based on today’s conversation and email it to Dave for the next meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meetings held on August 14, 2023 are tabled until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Application Status

Was already discussed in previous conversation.

Other Business and Next Steps

None

Public Comment

None

A Regular Meeting of the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee will be held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6 p.m.

Fritz King motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Tom Elmore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Sypek
Recording Secretary