



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of November 14, 2023

TOPIC		DISCUSSION
PRESENT:		Members Robert Challinor Jr., Jim Bradley, Dave Gilbert, Michael Vassar, Alan Joslin, Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head), Willie Bousquet (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head)
ABSENT:		Mike Santerre, Hans Lowell, and Harold Charbonneau & Arthur (Buster) Corey – Memorial Day Parade Committee.
1.	Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 7PM. 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 October 10, 2023 Mike V made a motion, 2 nd by Jim B, no discussion, all approved.
5.	Communications	2 pieces of mail were returned, and some memorial brick orders have been coming in
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	<p>A Cemetery Committee: Nothing new to report. Expect no news until at least March for anything to happen.</p> <p>B Flagpole Grove Street Monument: Nothing new to report. Expect no news until March/April of next year. Possibly putting a bench there. Top of monument needs to be cleaned. Once all is done to satisfaction, committee will be closed.</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 per year.</p> <p>D Hometown Heroes Banners: 13 still on hand went up mid-September, and once they are down, there will be no new ones to put up. Hans has sent letter out, with list he & Barney worked on. Pricing from Chase @ \$110 each. Still seek living Vets, focus on Korean and Vietnam era. 30-35 new banners is the goal to be done and up for next Labor Day. 15-20 Korean / 15-20 Vietnam – If there are more in the pipeline, they will be ready to go into the rotation, since we are basically starting from 0 next year. Mike V made a motion to keep the Hometown Heroes Banner program with the VAC, Jim B 2nd, all approved, motion passed. Need budget line item for the banner funds to come and go into. Has this been done, as we have received money for 2 already?</p>
7.	Reports of Special Committee	<p>A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubs: complete

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidewalks & Electrical: material lists & costs in progress. Jim B seeking donations from local vendors/Lowes. • Memorial Bricks (qty 1859): Orders are coming in. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bricks come on pallets of 500 @ 2600# per pallet. Will be stored in the Armory. ○ WINY interview Friday, 11/10 was an hour and successful in reaching many. ○ Town Hall Community Room to be open Saturday, 11/18 from 9-noon to take orders. ○ Order forms are on VAC webpage. ○ Discussion to come later for larger bricks for Vet organizations. ○ Marcy to get final plan for park, scan it, and add it to VAC webpage for visual. • Monuments: Research needed to find vendor who did original monuments, re: materials & pricing, for consistency – consensus is they came from somewhere in VT. Willie to call Mr. Parker to see if he has any recollection. <p>B Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): up to date</p> <p>C Other:</p> <p>Beirut Annual Gathering: Completed</p> <p>Wreaths Across America: Saturday, 12/16/23 @ noon, Veterans Park, unless inclement weather, which moves it to Farmers Marketplace. Mike Rocchetti (Am Legion Post #13 commander) attended meeting and is in progress with Rec Dept to get everything lined up, including speakers, wreath layers, honor guard, riflemen, guests. Willie has Taps player lined up. Mike R to do PR and ad at WINY (Rec Dept to pay for this ad), Rec to do program, print ad for Putnam Town Crier (Am Legion to pay for this ad). All info needed by 12/13 latest to produce the program.</p>
8.	Unfinished Business	A Tree Removal Quotes for Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery: Although a couple of members have received quotes, Barney announced that since this Cemetery is town property, he is having the highway department take down the tree.
9.	Grant Considerations & Updates	Nothing to report. More info to come in the following months.
10.	New Business	<p>2024 Meeting Schedule: meetings to be held in Room 201 on 2nd TUESDAY of every month with time changed to **6pm** on the following dates: JANUARY 9, FEBRUARY 13, MARCH 12, APRIL 9, MAY 14, JUNE 11, JULY 9, AUGUST 13, SEPTEMBER 10, OCTOBER 8, NOVEMBER 12, DECEMBER 10, 2024. Mike V made motion to accept schedule with time change from current 7pm to 6pm start, Jim B 2nd, all approved, motion carried.</p> <p>Hans Lowell resignation: Mike V made motion to table the issue until a signed resignation letter is received, Jim B 2nd, all approved.</p>
11.	Public Comment – 3 minute maximum per person	Mike V noted 2 Veterans events coming: WA South Campus Veterans Breakfast & Loos Ctr American Soldier – tickets for Veterans are still available.
12.	Adjournment	Mike V motion, Jim B 2 nd , meeting adjourned at 7:55pm. Next meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 7pm (2nd Tuesday unless otherwise noted)

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