



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of December 12, 2023

TOPIC		DISCUSSION
PRESENT:		Members: Robert Challinor Jr., Dave Gilbert, Michael Vassar, Alan Joslin
ABSENT:		Members: Jim Bradley, Mike Santerre, Hans Lowell
		Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head), Willie Bousquet (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head)
		Harold Charbonneau & Arthur (Buster) Corey of Memorial Day Parade Committee.
1.	Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 7:13PM. 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 November 14, 2023 Mike V made a motion, 2 nd by Alan J, no discussion, all approved.
5.	Communications	Bank statement, more memorial brick orders have been coming in
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	A Cemetery Committee: Nothing new to report. Expect no news until at least March for anything to happen. 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. 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. An online registration form on VAC webpage has been created and will go live in January 2024. A flyer with hard copy registration form has been created. D Hometown Heroes Banners: Hans has sent letter out, with list he & Barney worked on, VAC to get that list. Marcy to re-do the letter a bit for next release. Pricing from Chase @ \$110 each.
7.	Reports of Special Committee	A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases: • Shrubs: complete – look great – this item will be removed from agenda • Sidewalks & Electrical w/Ellis Tech: still moving forward • Memorial Bricks (qty 1859): Orders are coming in @ 73 now. ○ Bricks come on pallets of 500 @ 2600# per pallet. Will be stored in the Armory. ○ Order forms are on VAC webpage. ○ Discussion to come later for larger bricks for Vet organizations.

		○ MAJOR SPONSOR outreach for January – led by Willie B, Rob C & Barney was discussed. Mike V made a motion to accept the plan to acquire major sponsors, 2nd by Dave G, all approved. ○ MAJOR SPONSOR Salute/Event – discussion on Willie’s idea for Bricks & Beatles dinner dance was discussed, and tabled until the next meeting for further discussion. ● Monuments: Beirut monument will go in with sidewalks. Research still 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. B Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): up to date. VAC budget will become more robust as time & projects progress. C Other: Wreaths Across America: set for Saturday, 12/16/23 @ noon, Veterans Park. Ads are out. Program details were filled in except for a few points to be confirmed, due in the next day or 2.
8.	Unfinished Business	A Tree Removal Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery: Cemetery is town property, highway department to take down the tree.
9.	Grant Considerations & Updates	Nothing to report. More info to come in the following months.
10.	New Business	Hans Lowell resignation: Still in review, no signed letter received yet. Michael Santerre resignation was submitted in writing & signed to the town clerk today 12/12/23. Mike V made motion to accept, 2nd by Alan J, all approve.
11.	Public Comment – 3 minute maximum per person	None
12.	Adjournment	Mike V motion, Dave G 2nd, meeting adjourned at 8:05pm. Next meeting Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6pm, Room 201 <i>(2nd Tuesday unless otherwise noted)</i>

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

****4 members needed for quorum****

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