

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 8, 2024
6:00 P.M.**

**Suffield Police Station Conference Room, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
In-Person Meeting Only**

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Present:

Dave Gauthier, Chairman
Fredrick (Fritz) King
Sal Covino
Tom Elmore
William Moryto
Chris Nikolis
Raymond Hartford

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent:

David Shute
Kevin Goff

Mr. Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on November 13, 2023

Mr. Moryto motioned and **Mr. Covino** seconded to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee held on November 13, 2023. **Vote: 7-0 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2023

Mr. Covino motioned and **Mr. King** seconded to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee held on December 11, 2023. **Vote: 7-0 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and approve memorial base vertical finish, either steeled or rock pitched

Mr. Gauthier noted that the group had never discussed whether the platform for the new monument should be smooth steeled or rock pitched. He explained the difference between steeled or rock pitched and remarked that the original monument is smooth steel finished. Rogers Memorial suggested the rock pitched finish as any damages caused to the stone would not be clearly noticeable.

Mr. King motioned and **Mr. Hartford** seconded to approve the memorial base vertical finish as rock pitched. **Vote: 7-0 in favor.** Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible approval of design changes and location to accommodate the Historic District Commission comments

Mr. Gauthier provided an overview of the discussion he had with the Historic District Commission at their December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting. He identified their concerns with the proposed memorial and its location. Based on their concerns, the group chose not to approve the entire project and stipulated that Mr. Gauthier return to the Historic District Commission with a detailed and scaled mock-up to determine actual placement of the two monuments. Mr. Gauthier created a mock-up of the proposed monuments and sent photographs to the commission members for their opinions. He received only one comment, indicating that the monuments were “too high.” Mr. Gauthier revisited the measurements and sent additional photographs. He received no further comments from the commission. Rogers Memorial made final measurement adjustments that included lowering the base by 2 inches and lowering the tablet by four inches for an adjustment of 6 inches in total. Mr. Gauthier also adjusted the placement location by moving the monuments an additional foot away from the sidewalk for a total of two feet on each side. Mr. Gauthier noted that approval would be needed from this group in order to move forward with presenting to the Historic District Commission meeting later this evening.

Mr. Hartford motioned and Mr. Elmore seconded to accept the design presented this evening, including a reduction of six (6) inches from original height and movement from one (1) foot to two feet from the sidewalk and to allow the Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Chairman to negotiate minor changes at their discretion. Vote: 7-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hartford offered to join Mr. Gauthier at the Historic District Commission Meeting this evening at 7:30 p.m.

Application Status

- Two (2) applications have been received
 - One was received at the recent Veterans Breakfast at the VFW
 - One was received from a Retired Colonel currently living in Germany
- The number of applications received as been lower than expected
 - Mr. Gauthier has reached out to two (2) individuals from Persian Gulf – waiting to hear back from them
- Need to push the information in as many ways as possible
 - Facebook
 - The Suffield Observer
 - Mr. Nikolis volunteered to write the article for the Suffield Observer and forward it for review prior to submission
 - Difficult to make contact with former residents of Suffield regarding the new memorial
 - Discussion with Suffield High School Principal and Superintendent of Schools has been unsuccessful
 - 1997 is the first year of eligibility for the new monument
- Names can be added to the monument at any time after installation if necessary
- Mr. Gauthier stated that he had applications requiring sign-offs and asked for volunteers to complete this task after the meeting this evening.

Other business and next steps

Mr. Gauthier questioned whether the revised plan would require another visit with the Design Review Board. He provided the group with an overview of all the information he has available for submission and the group asked questions. The group had concerns about whether rebar is necessary to reinforce the monument footings. Mr. Gauthier said he would reach out to the Town Building Official to get their opinion, however, Rogers Memorial confirmed that no rebar would be required.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Hartford motioned and Mr. Moryto seconded to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Substitute Recording Secretary