



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of March 12, 2024

TOPIC		DISCUSSION
PRESENT:		Members: Robert Challinor Jr., Dave Gilbert, Jim Bradley, Hans Lowell, 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) Harold Charbonneau & Arthur (Buster) Corey of Memorial Day Parade Committee. Plus 1 guest
ABSENT:		No absences
1.	Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 6:04 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 February 20, 2024 Jim B made a motion, 2 nd by Dave G, no discussion, all approved.
5.	Communications	*Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post #13 made donation of \$10,000 (70 bricks with remainder to be used for park upgrades as needed). Commander Michael Rocchetti was present for a photo of the presentation *ECD invitation passed out for Korean/Vietnam ceremony, Monday 3/25/24 *Bank statement, memorial brick orders still coming in
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	A Cemetery Committee: no report B Flagpole Grove Street Monument: Alan to assess work that needs to be done there, Barney to see about getting the construction sign down & holes filled in, Jim B can powerwash monument. Bench? Goal: have area look good for Memorial Day parade on 5/27/24 C Memorial Day Parade Committee: Parade meetings set for: Wed 3/27/24, 11am, room 201 Wed 4/17/24, 11am, room 201 Wed 5/8/24, 11am, room 201 Wed 5/22/24, 11am, room 201 D Hometown Heroes Banners: Deadline to get order is Tues July 9, 2024 – Goal 20 this year (can take 32). We have 4 ordered now. Mike V to get banner form to Marcy, who will be in Room 109 during the Korean/Vietnam ceremony on 3/25/24 to take orders if vets come her way
7.	Reports of Special Committee	A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases: 1. Memorial Bricks (qty 1859): Orders @ 523 now (including PAF's 300, AL 70 and all others): Mike V made motion, Jim B 2 nd for Dave G & Alan J to submit list for approval of Vets from various eras to be created for the donated bricks. Approved. Goal is to place an order for qty 1000.

			○ MAJOR SPONSOR outreach continues. American Legion donation received for 70 bricks = \$10,000 ○ Fundraiser Event – Salute the Sponsors Bricks & Beatles, dinner dance March 23, 2024 at VFW. Jim B needs final count Monday 3/18/24 to prep 2. Sidewalks & Electrical w/Ellis Tech: Meeting Wed 3/13/24 w/all parties to get planning/timeline moving 3. Monuments: Mercer new monument quote @ \$9000 per. 4-6 months for delivery. Aluminum to be used for attached graphics (bronze exceptionally prohibitive due to pricing & weight). They can also move, clean, store & set monuments back in place. Should order ASAP. Quote to come. 4. Subcommittee assignments discussed throughout each previous topic line above, except flagpole. Jim B made motion, Dave G 2nd to purchase same style pole as Grove St from local vendor Flags Unlimited. Discussion re: installation, VAC to do it, pole to be ordered this week, All approved B Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): no report C Other: Mike V made motion, Jim B 2nd to acquire bank card associated with account to use for online renewals, purchases as needed. Discussion on limit: all agreed on \$1000 unless written authorization is obtained. All approved.
8.	Unfinished Business	A	Tree Removal Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery: Cemetery is town property, highway department to take down the tree. Crane access through private property to cemetery is issue.
9.	Grant Considerations & Updates		Eversource \$2500 max app submitted
10.	New Business		None
11.	Public Comment – 3 minute maximum per person		None
12.	Adjournment		Jim B motion, Dave G 2nd, meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm. Next meeting Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 6pm, Room 201 (2nd Tuesday unless otherwise noted)

Members: Robert Challinor Jr., David Gilbert, Alan R. Joslin, Michael Vassar, Jim Bradley, Hans W. Lowell, 1 vacancy (at large).

******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

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