



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of April 9, 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 6:04PM. 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 March 12, 2024 Jim B made a motion, 2 nd by Mike V, no discussion, all approved.
5.	Communications	Monthly bank statement Hans noted his employer is donating electrical panels & breakers for Veterans Park
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	A Cemetery Committee: prepping for Memorial Day, we have flags (Armory) B Flagpole Grove Street Monument: state sign is down, dip needs filling, raking (Alan to do, town to pick up pile), grubex needed, Jim B to power wash, goal to look good for Memorial Day parade on 5/27/24 C Memorial Day Parade Committee: Remaining Parade meetings: Wed 4/17/24, Wed 5/8/24, Wed 5/22/24, 11am, room 201 <i>Completed:</i> Letter sent to Nat'l Guard. IN: grand marshal, drivers for Poppy queens, Elks, VFW, Am Leg, Fire Dept, EMS, WPTP, 2 different musics to be driven by Town trucks, WINY & music. TO DO: get Poppy queens & do press release on parade/event by early May, get rest of parade participant commitments, food, program, wreaths, etc.... D Hometown Heroes Banners: Deadline to get order is Tues July 9, 2024 @ \$110 ea. Goal 20 this year (can take 32). We have 4 ordered now.
7.	Reports of Special Committee	A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases: Memorial Bricks (qty 2000+/-): 1st order going in to mfg 4/10/24 – estimated to be approx 475 (includes Am Leg & PAF bricks). Current Pricing = \$24.37 no logo, \$30.37 w/logo, shipping included. Bruce has done plan for this amount of bricks to be placed to start - MAJOR SPONSOR outreach continues. Expecting Spirol's list and donation by early May to go with next order. - Fundraiser Event – Salute the Sponsors Bricks & Beatles, dinner dance 3/23/24 was a success. Fun plus raised \$1000 for park, \$1000 for PASS

		B C	2. Sidewalks & Electrical w/Ellis Tech: conduit ordered through Ellis Tech, as noted in <i>item 3</i>) Hans is getting electrical panel & breakers donated (needs list of exact needs), Granite City Elec items have been ordered, Modern Lumber former & current have donated, Lowes has donated, Barnes Concrete & Ellis Tech masonry need to connect 3. Monuments: 2 monument stones ordered through Mercer per quote @ \$9000 per. 4-6 months for delivery. Decided on bronze to be used for attached graphics . Fence Decals (Gagnon) going up w/safety screws soon. 4. Flags Unlimited flagpole – cement poured, will wait until Monday 4/15/24 for us to install (weather appropriate) Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): current ready to be reviewed & signed Other: n/a
8.	Unfinished Business	A	Tree Removal Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery: Nothing new to report. (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, awaiting news.
10.	New Business		June 9, 2024 – Elks Flag Day ceremony, 10am-noon, at town complex (front) June 14, 2024 – VFW Flag Day ceremony, dusk June 19, 2024 – Juneteenth ceremony w/PHS, 1pm, Rotary Park, color guard will participate
11.	Public Comment – 3 minute maximum per person		None
12.	Adjournment		Mike V motion, Dave G 2nd, meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm. Next meeting Tuesday, May 14, 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.

******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

VAC is a 501(c)(3) organization ~ EIN # 88-4216913 ~ Date Formed: 10/25/2022