



Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of June 11, 2024

TOPIC		DISCUSSION
PRESENT:		Members: Robert Challinor Jr., Dave Gilbert, Jim Bradley, Michael Vassar, Alan Joslin, Hans Lowell, Willie Bousquet (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head), Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head), Harold Charbonneau of Memorial Day Parade Committee.
ABSENT:		Arthur (Buster) Corey of Memorial Day Parade Committee
1.	Call to Order	Rob C. called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 May 14, 2024 & Special Meeting minutes from May 22, 2024 Mike V made a motion, 2 nd by Dave G, no discussion, all approved 5/14/24 minutes. Dave G made a motion, 2 nd by Alan J, no discussion, all approved 5/22/24 special meeting minutes.
5.	Communications	May 2024 bank statement, Thank You card from citizen for Veterans Park improvements
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	A Cemetery Committee: flags went out as planned pre-Memorial Day, Hans working on fixing many vet stones B Flagpole Grove Street Monument: Jim B power washed monument, grub treatment put down, fill area to level and plant seed as needed in fall C Memorial Day Parade Committee: This year's parade/program wrap-up: • Sunday/cemeteries/Natl Grd went exceptionally well • Parade, timing spacing went well • NEED new parade starter next year – Rummy is done • Monday program, timing good • Monday picnic good (remember to shop Walmart next year for food) • All expenses paid • WB to ORDER 25 street flags/poles at start of new fiscal year 7/1/24 D Hometown Heroes Banners: Deadline to get order is Tues July 9, 2024 @ \$110 ea. Goal 20 this year (can take 32). All info for the banners was due at this mtg, but still in progress. So far we have: 1 Martell, David A, Navy Desert Storm, nothing received yet but wife said she could provide - see Willie B 2 Meadows, Loretta, Air Force, 1993-1997, (\$110 paid via Jay Vanderschel donation), Chase has scanned photo 3 Meadows, Michael, Army Desert Shield/Desert Storm, (\$110.00 paid), Chase has scanned photo

		4 Neeland, James, Army Vietnam Era, (\$110.00 paid via Jay Vanderschel donation), Chase has scanned photo 5 Simmons, Roy, Navy Lt Commander 1980-2008 (Desert Storm), (\$110.00 paid), Chase has scanned photo 6 Vassar, Mike's dad 7 Vassar, Mike's father in law 8 St Onge, Robert (Korea) 9 Some VFW vet Marcy to send out list of comp bricks given out at town Korea/Vietnam event & at coffeehouse to see if there are any viable candidates
7.	Reports of Special Committee	A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases: total cost expected to be \$130,000 - \$150,000 Memorial Bricks (qty 2000+/-): 1st order (qty 471) rcvd & in ground. 2nd order (qty 86) placed 5/16/24, 3rd order (qty 125) placed 6/2/24. Current Pricing = \$24.37 no logo, \$30.37 w/logo, shipping included. Total orders rcvd in rec office as of meeting time is 807. - MAJOR SPONSOR outreach continues. - Still awaiting Spirol's 100 brick list & donation - Still awaiting Mag Tech/QC Storage 30 brick list & donation - Going to ask \$5000 ea from 3 banks/businesses to sponsor 3 monuments for that cost. Electrical w/Ellis Tech: complete – will be removed from agenda Monuments: DUE TO MERCER at this time: \$25,000 for monument, \$45,000 for bronze plaque (4-6 weeks to arrive once ordered) – so total of \$70,000. FREE crane to set can be donated, saving \$3500 OTHER: Work Fence: coming down later in week after push mowing Vet Park sign: to be put in Pulled Pork picnic: this Thurs 6/13. Ticket sales slow, but usually sell many at door. Roles assigned to volunteers Dedication: Goal is to hold a park dedication ceremony as a Veterans Day offering. B Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): next due soon C Other: n/a
8.	Unfinished Business	A Tree Removal Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery (town property): Due to crane need/ins, town staff will not remove this. Barney talked w/Stately Tree. May or may not be donated work. Hans to coordinate with Stately, Neil Richard/Richard Electric for access, and Barney.
9.	Grant Considerations & Updates	Eversource \$2000 award letter rcvd. Big check presentation/photo op to take place in vet park 6/27 @ 1pm
10.	New Business	Upcoming events: - June 13, 2024 – Pulled Pork Picnic, 4:30 start, St Mary - June 14, 2024 – VFW's Flag Day ceremony, dusk - June 19, 2024 – Juneteenth ceremony w/PHS, 1pm, Rotary Park, Mike V to verify color guard w/minimum of USA & CT flags, flag stands & weights will be at Rotary already.

		Need one more member for Committee: must be a Veteran, live in Putnam, be registered to vote in Putnam Jim Bradley fundraiser idea: Fall chicken bbq & golf tourney. Will review vets park project finances @ July mtg. Event tbd based on need, if any
11.	Public Comment – 3 minute maximum per person	None
12.	Adjournment	Alan J motion, Jim B 2nd, meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm. Next meeting Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 6pm, Room 201 <i>(2nd Tuesday unless otherwise noted)</i>

Members: Chairman Robert Challinor Jr. (11/30/28), Jim Bradley (11/30/30), David Gilbert (11/30/29), Alan R. Joslin (11/30/29), Hans W. Lowell (11/30/28), Michael Vassar (11/30/30), 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