

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 10, 2024**

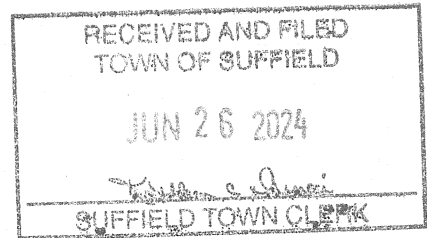
**6:00 P.M.**

**Suffield Police Station Conference Room, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield CT**

**In-Person Meeting Only**

**Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Present:**

Dave Gauthier, Chairman  
Kevin Goff  
Frederick (Fritz) King  
Tom Elmore  
Raymond Hartford  
Sal Covino – 6:52 p.m. arrival  
David Shute – 6:52 p.m. arrival



**Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent:**

William Moryto  
Chris Nikolis

**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**

Brendan Malone, 104 Third Street - Mr. Malone shared the same presentation on the Global War on Terror, in particular Operation Noble Eagle, that he had given at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for the additional committee members who had not been able to be in attendance. He also shared the information he had provided on the differences between Title 32 and Title 10 and how it impacts veterans who were involved.

**Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2024**

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner Hartford motioned to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2024. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 13, 2024**

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner King motioned to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 13, 2024. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Review and approve new Vietnam War dates (ref. CRS RS21405, Feb 5, 2024)**

Chairman Gauthier reiterated the discussion from the last meeting involving the date changes for the Vietnam War have been changed to reflect November 1, 1955 through May 7, 1975. Additional discussion ensued among the commissioners with Chairman Gauthier answering their questions accordingly.

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner Hartford seconded to accept the new Vietnam War dates from the CRS RS21405, February 5, 2024, as may be amended from time to time. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued involving the removal of the word "Vietnam" and the removal of "February 5, 2024."

A friendly amendment was made to remove the word "Vietnam" and the date "February 5, 2024."

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner Hartford seconded to accept the friendly amendment as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Review and reaffirm the Global War on Terror dates and requirements**

Chairman Gauthier reviewed the dates of the Global War on Terror, and the confusion surrounding them. He also discussed the requirements for being recognized and how it may impact individuals as well as information on their DD214's. In depth discussion ensued among the committee members.

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner Hartford seconded to table. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Review and approve the definition of "Active Duty" as defined in TITLE 38 USC**

Chairman Gauthier explained that they have been using TITLE 38 all along. He provided the official definition for Active Duty and how it relates to one of the applications currently being reviewed. In-depth discussion ensued among the committee members with Chairman Gauthier providing examples of scenarios that fit the definition and those that do not.

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner King seconded to approve the definition of "Active Duty" as defined in TITLE 38 USC to mean full-time duty in the armed forces, other than active duty for training. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner Hartford motioned to discuss agenda item ten prior to agenda item nine. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Review and approve wording and name formats for new memorial**

Chairman Gauthier read the latest wording up for approval. The wording on the left side, when viewing from Main Street, reads as follows: "In honor of the men and women of Suffield who served in our armed forces." This description honors all veterans from Suffield, which the Board of Selectmen tasked this group to accomplish. The right hand side says "May this be a place of healing for those whose lives were broken by war."

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and Commissioner Hartford seconded to approve the wording and name formats, as presented, for the new memorial. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Discuss and consider allowing Guard and Reserve active duty**

Chairman Gauthier noted that he has done extensive research on this topic and shared the information he obtained with the group. He discussed the 2002 Olympics, Operation Noble Eagle, National Special Security Events and events of significant size with regard to security. It appears that the 2002 Olympics were not part of Operation Noble Eagle, except for aircraft overhead and airspace. Extensive discussion

ensued among the committee members with each providing their personal thoughts and concerns as well as ideas for how they should be acknowledged. Discussion also included the possibility that a name or names may have been included on the memorial in error. None of the committee members want to go backwards and change anything that already exists. The difference between Title 10 and Title 32 Guard and Reservists was discussed again in great detail with emphasis on whether there was an event in which both were serving side by side. Chairman Gauthier suggested possible wording to address the issue of active duty for Title 10 and Title 32.

Commissioner Covino MOTIONED to add the names of the National Guard and Reservists that were not eligible to be on the current memorial to a monument to be located and recognized by name in another location on the property as far back in time as needed, who meet all other criteria except the active duty component.

No second. Motion fails.

Chairman Gauthier plans to do further research on possible wording that would acknowledge the Guard and Reservists in the type of situations discussed earlier.

#### **Applicant Review Status**

Chairman Gauthier discussed the status of the applications for review. There are currently 36 applications pending.

#### **Other Business and Next Steps**

Chairman Gauthier the final wording needs to be submitted to Rogers Memorial as soon as possible.

#### **Public Comment**

Brendan Malone, 104 Third Street – Mr. Malone once again thanked the committee for listening to his presentation this evening and for all the hard work they do.

#### **Executive Session to discuss personal data of applicant**

None.

#### **Action on Executive Session**

None.

**Chairman Gauthier adjourned the meeting at 7:50p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary