

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

JULY 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
Kevin Goff
Frederick (Fritz) King
Raymond Hartford
David Shute

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent:

William Moryto
Chris Nikolis
Tom Elmore
Sal Covino

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 said that he was attending this evening because of his continued interest in Agenda item number six. He thanked the committee members for their consideration in this matter.

Approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on June 10, 2024

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and K. Goff seconded to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on June 10, 2024 with the following change:

- 1) All references to “commissioner” should be removed as this group is a committee and not a commission.

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 continued the discussion from the June 10th meeting involving eligibility for applicants who have been awarded the Global War on Terror medal versus those who have not. Currently, the group has no applications that would be affected. In depth discussion ensued among the committee members who shared their perspectives and concerns with the group.

K. Goff MOTIONED and R. Hartford seconded to table. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and consider allowing Guard and Reserve Title 32 Active Duty

Chairman Gauthier described the three types of Active Duty and explained the differences between them. In-depth discussion ensued among the committee members and clarifications were provided to those who had concerns. Chairman Gauthier also provided examples of scenarios that fit the definitions and those that did not. The committee also discussed the new memorial being limited to the Global War on Terror and future conflicts only. All were in agreement that the Global War on Terror is unique and has presented situations that have never occurred in prior conflicts.

Chairman Gauthier MOTIONED and R. Hartford seconded to revise the Suffield Veterans Memorial Eligibility for the Global War on Terror to include the following language:

National Guard and Reservist ordered to Active Duty, other than Active Duty for training, to directly serve in military counter-terrorism operations such as, but not limited to, Operation Noble Eagle and National Special Security Events, under Title 32 of the U.S. Code.

Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and consider allowing high/secondary school graduates to residency requirement

Chairman Gauthier explained that this topic came up during recent application reviews. Questions were raised as to whether an individual who grew up in Suffield and had graduated from Suffield High School would be eligible to have their name on the monument if they had moved out of town by the time they joined the military and entered active duty. In-depth discussion ensued relating to past requirements, the definition of “residency” as it pertains to this particular situation, possible issues it may pose and whether or not this decision should be brought back to the town to decide. The committee members posed a number of possible scenarios and determined they were not prepared to make a decision at this time.

F. King MOTIONED and K. Goff seconded to table. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Review and approve wording and name formats for new memorial

Chairman Gauthier provided an illustration for the committee members to review which included how the wording will appear on the monument. He reviewed the details and asked for feedback. All members were in agreement that the wording and name formats should be approved as presented.

R. Hartford MOTIONED and F. King seconded to approve the wording and name for the new memorial as presented by Chairman Gauthier. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Applicant Review Status

Chairman Gauthier reported that he and Mr. Moryto had reviewed and signed off on most of the applications, but there is still one in need of a signature. There are no new applications at this time.

Other Business and Next Steps

Chairman Gauthier discussed the due dates for information to be submitted to Rogers Memorial and reported that he and Mr. Moryto plan to review the DD214 documents on Friday to check for any spelling errors prior to submission.

Discussion ensued as to whether a final push should be made to try and contact any residents or eligible individuals who may be unaware of the application process. Committee members shared their thoughts on whether or not it would be worthwhile as the deadline is so close and it may be difficult to gather all required documents in time.

Public Comment

Brendan Malone, 104 Third Street – Mr. Malone thanked the committee members for their discussion this evening and for all their hard work.

Executive Session to discuss personal data of applicant

None.

Action on Executive Session

None.

K. Goff MOTIONED and R. Hartford seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:06p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary