

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

JULY 15, 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
Frederick (Fritz) King
William Moryto
Tom Elmore
Sal Covino

Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent:

Chris Nikolis
Kevin Goff
Raymond Hartford
David Shute

Chairman Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., explained the reason for the Special Meeting and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Don Miner, 1855 Mapleton Avenue - Mr. Miner expressed his thoughts and concerns relating to the current selection criteria for the Veterans Memorial and urged the committee members to look at the totality of an applicant's circumstances. He provided an example of an individual who has lived in Suffield the majority of their life, however, due to a brief span of time renting in a neighboring town, they are not eligible to be recognized on the monument. Mr. Miner described this as a significant disservice and thanked the committee members for their consideration in this matter.

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

Chairman Gauthier gave a brief overview of the discussions that have already taken place regarding this topic and asked for feedback from those committee members who had not been available to participate previously. Discussion ensued and the group agreed that allowing high/secondary school graduates to the residency requirement will help to alleviate the need for exceptions in the future.

B. Moryto MOTIONED and S. Covino seconded to accept applicants whose principal residence was in the town of Suffield, CT at the time of High School or Secondary School graduation, in lieu of Suffield residency upon entering active duty. This commences with the Global War on Terror Memorial. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Don Miner, 1855 Mapleton Avenue – Mr. Miner thanked the committee for all their hard work.

F. King MOTIONED and B. Moryto seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:24p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert

