

Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes of August 13, 2024



TOPIC		DISCUSSION
PRESENT:		Members: Robert Challinor Jr., Jim Bradley, Hans Lowell, Dave Gilbert, Michael Vassar, Willie Bousquet -Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head),
ABSENT:		Alan Joslin, Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head), Harold Charbonneau and 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 min max per person	None
4.	Approval of minutes from last meeting(s)	Approve Regular meeting minutes from July 9, 2024 Mike V made a motion, 2 nd by Dave G, no discussion, all approved.
5.	Communications	None
6.	Reports of Standing Committees	A Cemetery Committee: 1st Saturday of month Hans working with Scouts on stones B Grove Street Monument: looking good, may add a bench in future, fill area to level and plant seed as needed in fall noted at last meeting, then review any work needed in spring C Memorial Day Parade Committee: Reminder that a new parade starter will be needed for next year 2025, mtg to be scheduled for Nov to discuss details and set next year's meeting dates (March/April/May), start thinking about Grand Marshal & keynote speaker for 2025 D Hometown Heroes Banners: 11 ordered, to go up aro 8/26, to be up for Labor Day through week of Veterans Day, along Main St from post office to Union Square for best walking/sidewalks & viewability.
7.	Reports of Special Committee	A Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases: total cost expected to be \$130,000 - \$150,000 1. Memorial Bricks (qty 2000+/-): Total orders @ meeting time is 1613. • MAJOR SPONSOR outreach continues. ▪ Spirol 33 brick orders rcvd, remainder due by 9/23, donation (\$10,000) still due ▪ Orders to factory now being placed w/rush fee to cut delivery time to half to get them in time for dedication ▪ Ellis Tech to be requested as soon as app opens ▪ BRICK ORDER DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC: Mike V made motion, Dave G 2nd to make order deadline Tuesday 9/3/24 to ensure bricks will be in place for dedication. Discussion: Willie to schedule time for WINY announcement Mon 8/19, order signs from Chase for park & VFW placement noting deadline, town website "pop-up" to be created noting deadline. All approved ▪ Discuss solution at 9/10/24 mtg if 2000 brick goal is not met

		2. Monuments: ▪ Afghanistan stone to be donated by bankHometown, (\$5000), Rob/Barney to check if any other paperwork is needed, 8x8 project sponsor brick to be ordered ▪ Iraq stone to be donated by NEFK (\$5000), Mike V to see if any other paperwork is needed, 8x8 project sponsor brick to be ordered ▪ Desert Storm – JCSB, Rob completing online app for \$5000, 8x8 project sponsor to be ordered ▪ List of names for WWII bronze completed: • WWI stone show names as First MI. Last Sr. or Jr. – alpha by last name • WWII on bridges show as Last, First – alpha by last name • Jim B motion, Hans L 2nd to mirror the layout for the new WWII stones to be same as WWI monument ie: Joseph W. Smith, Jr. Approved • Mike V motion, Jim B 2nd to have KIA/MIA placed at top of plaque in separate section only (not to be included w/ * in list of other vets) and header of section to mirror WWI plaque. Approved • Marcy to get formatted list to Steve/Mercer ▪ Mercer: \$15,000 due on stones, approx. \$30,000 due on bronze (pricing may change depending on final work to get all names engraved) 3. OTHER: • Benches \$1500 sponsorships, includes cement pad, bench, plaque: Green Valley Orthodontics to donate for a new bench, Doug Valentine existing bench in Armory to go back in park, 3 more needed. 4 new benches to be backless, for sitting & viewing from either side w/arms & middle bar, sponsor plaque to be installed on each bench. Bench layout to be presented at next meeting (Rob) • Dedication: Goal is to hold a park dedication ceremony Sunday, November 10, 2024, 1pm B Quarterly Audit Status: (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): current in review. Future discussion/vote on hiring accountant as this project has made filing more complex. Research still in progress. C Other: none
8.	Unfinished Business	A Tree Removal Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery (town property): Planning still in progress. Rob to reach out to Leo Crane to see if they assist, they have Crane to accommodate reach & weight. Hans to coordination access to cemetery with Neil Richard of Richard Electric when needed.
9.	Grant Considerations & Updates	Nothing to report other than regarding monuments (see above)
10.	New Business	• Creation of VAC facebook page: Mike V motion, Dave G 2nd to create VAC facebook page, with central admin character/logins that can be passed as leadership/membership changes, with approval of town administration. More than one to be assigned roles for page. Approved. • VAC LOGO: Hans distributed 3 initial proofs, committee asked to see a few revisions, edits will be done and discussed at next mtg • Need one more member for Committee: nothing to report

11.	Public Comment – 3 min max per person	None
12.	Adjournment	Rob motion, Jim B 2nd, meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm. Next meeting Tuesday, September 10, 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