



# Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting

## Minutes of September 10, 2024

| TOPIC    |                                          | DISCUSSION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| PRESENT: |                                          | Members: Robert Challinor Jr., Hans Lowell, Dave Gilbert, Michael Vassar, Alan Joslin, Mayor Barney Seney (Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Executive Head), Willie Bousquet -Ex Officio – Town of Putnam Parks and Recreation Department Head), Harold Charbonneau, plus 2 guests                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| ABSENT:  |                                          | Jim Bradley, and Arthur (Buster) Corey of Memorial Day Parade Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1.       | Call to Order                            | Rob C. called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 August 13, 2024<br>Mike V made a motion, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Hans, no discussion, all approved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5.       | Communications                           | Bill & Janet (Muscara) Schmidt from Putnam Lodge of Elks #574 Veterans Committee presented plan for their 2 month raffle 9/17-11/17/24 to sponsor a bench in Veterans Park and replacement flags. Expect \$4000-\$5000 profit. Only Elks concern being permitting process not being approved by Elks committee. Mike V made motion to accept Elks proposal, with the caveat that if Elks don't choose to obtain the permit then another supporting VAC organization will apply for it. 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Dave G. All approve.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 6.       | Reports of Standing Committees           | <p>A <b>Cemetery Committee:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> stone ordered by VAC for replacement coming in</p> <p>B <b>Grove Street Monument:</b> looking good, then review any work needed in spring</p> <p>C <b>Memorial Day Parade Committee:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> meeting set Nov 12, 5pm (before regular VAC meeting) to discuss details and set next year's meeting dates (March/April/May), start thinking about Grand Marshal &amp; keynote speaker, new committee members, new starter for 2025</p> <p>D <b>Hometown Heroes Banners:</b> 11 are up, new &amp; easier to use order form to be made, info posted on VAC webpage. Since prices have gone up Alan made motion that fee for 2025 should be \$125, Mike V 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.</p>                                |
| 7.       | Reports of Special Committee             | <p>A <b>Veterans Park (127 Church Street) Revitalization-all phases:</b> total cost expected to be \$130,000 - \$150,000</p> <p>1. <b>Memorial Bricks:</b>Total to close out 2024 Phase 1 = 2290</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MAJOR SPONSOR, Spirol 100 brick sponsor check was received</li> <li>Due diligence needed to get all bricks in time for dedication</li> <li>Project Partner bricks need to be reviewed to make sure we aren't missing any</li> <li>Ellis Tech new season \$1685 contract signed, start eta 9/11/24</li> <li>LGBTQ+ brick discussion: requirement for bricks are for specific veterans on a brick &amp; this order did not meet requirements. Hans to reach out to buyer to explain the process &amp; requirements again.</li> </ul> |

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|    |                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick order deadline for future: Hans made motion, Mike V 2<sup>nd</sup> to set all future ordering phases from November 11<sup>th</sup> (Veterans Day) through February 1<sup>st</sup>. All approved. Form &amp; webpage to be updated.</li> </ul> <p>2. <b>Monuments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>WWII Stones:</b> in place, paid in full \$19,000</li> <li><b>WWII Bronze:</b> still in design phase, need rendering ASAP for dedication completion, paid in full \$59,720</li> <li><b>WWII TOTAL PRICING = \$78,720</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3 new smaller stones:</b> <i>graphic work can be complete in 2 weeks, Hans to get photos to Mercer, Mercer to do mock-ups.</i> Mike V made motion to accept images for each stone noted below, Hans 2<sup>nd</sup>, All approved.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Afghanistan</b> Graphic: Chinook on rooftop photo - stone to be donated by bankHometown (\$5000)</li> <li><b>Iraq</b> Graphic: Soldiers under crossed swords photo - stone to be donated by NEFK (\$5000)</li> <li><b>Desert Storm</b> Graphic: tank photo - stone to be donated by JCSB (\$5000)</li> </ul> <p>3. <b>OTHER:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2 Garbage Cans</b> (small top openings) &amp; <b>4 Benches @ \$1500</b> sponsorships, includes cement pad, backless bench w/arms, plaque (dividers can be added at later date if needed), <b>Plus 1 existing D</b> Valentine bench w/back going in to park. Mike V made motion, Dave G 2<sup>nd</sup> to place benches around perimeter (not near or interfering with monument / park viewing) AND for a garbage can to be placed at each entry point of walkway into park, plus <b>dog waste bag station</b> to be added, All approved. New bench sponsors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Valley Orthodontics</li> <li>Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse</li> <li>American Legion</li> <li>Putnam Lodge of Elks #574</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Dedication:</b> Dedication ceremony Sunday, November 10, 2024, 1pm – committee (Rob, Barney, Willie, Gary O suggested, Marcy, Mike V-for color guard coordination) already working on details, need all done asap.</li> <li><b>Thank you meal for Town employees involved in project (Highway, WPCA, Rec crews):</b> Friday, 11/1, noon, community room catered by Renees, Willie to talk to all parties to get count and arrange it. TVCCA Senior meal to be cancelled for that day so room can be used.</li> </ul> <p>B <b>Quarterly Audit Status:</b> (Barney, Dave G, Jim B): current.<br/>Accountant: Rob has connected with Elizabeth Buzalski</p> <p>C <b>Other:</b> none</p> |
| 8. | Unfinished Business | <p>A Tree Removal Nancy Drive, Aspinwall Cemetery (town property): Planning still in progress. <b>Rob to reach out to Leo Crane</b> to see if they assist, they have Crane to accommodate reach &amp; weight. Hans to coordination access to cemetery with Neil Richard of Richard Electric when needed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| 9.  | Grant Considerations & Updates        | Nothing to report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 10. | New Business                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Creation of VAC facebook page:</b> was approved in August 13, 2024 meeting, waiting for logo so page can be created with good presentation</li> <li>• <b>VAC LOGO:</b> Hans to update most popular logo with different font choices and sent out to committee asap</li> <li>• <b>America 250 (7/4/2026 – Cady Copp tour):</b> Looking for a VAC member to join committee w/other reps from library, historical society, school, town (not heavy lifting). Jim Bradley's name was offered &amp; will be asked to consider at next meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Need one more member</b> for Committee: nothing to report</li> </ul> |
| 11. | Public Comment – 3 min max per person | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 12. | Adjournment                           | <p>Rob motion, Alan J 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.</p> <p><b>Next meeting Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 6pm, Room 201</b><br/> <i>(2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday unless otherwise noted)</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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