

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

**September 9, 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  
Tom Elmore  
Raymond Hartford (6:10 p.m. arrival)  
Chris Nikolis

**Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent:**

Kevin Goff  
William Moryto  
Sal Covino  
David Shute

Chairman Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on August 12, 2024**

T. Elmore MOTIONED and R. Hartford seconded to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on August 12, 2024. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discuss DAR Request**

Chairman Gauthier explained that he had spoken with First Selectman Moll about the recent DAR Request and received permission to move forward. He conducted some research and determined the dates of eligibility to be April 19, 1775 representing the Battles of Lexington and Concord and September 3, 1783 when the Treaty of Paris was signed. He noted that DAR has slightly different dates which extend to the end of September, however, he feels that the dates he described are accurate and offered reasons for the possible difference. Chairman Gauthier stated that if this request to add more names is approved, the specific requirements need to be explained to DAR in order for them to fully understand whether an individual is eligible.

**Review and approve the Suffield Veterans Memorial Eligibility for the Revolutionary War**

Chairman Gauthier reviewed the requirements with the group and asked for feedback. All were in agreement with what he had suggested.

F. King MOTIONED and R. Hartford seconded to accept the Suffield Veterans Memorial Eligibility for the Revolutionary War as discussed. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Construction status**

Chairman Gauthier provided an update on the status of construction at the memorial site, explaining that the concrete is in and the forms have been removed. Sign off has been obtained by the Building Department and progress continues.

### **Other Veterans Park Improvements**

Chairman Gauthier provided a status update from Rogers Memorials, discussed possible lighting options and the idea of mulching around the two memorial stones in order to avoid damage by lawn equipment.

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

Chairman Gauthier promised to stay on top of Rogers Memorial to ensure that all goes smoothly. He plans to reach out to DAR regarding next steps and noted that they will have a lot of work to do in order to find supporting documents to verify soldier eligibility. The group also briefly discussed creating a process for future individuals to follow after this committee is no longer in place or perhaps continuing the commission in a fashion similar to the Ethics Commission that meets once a year and holds special meetings as situations arise. More discussion to follow.

### **Public Comment**

None.

F. King MOTIONED and R. Hartford seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary