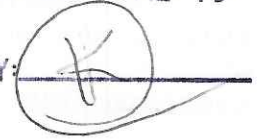


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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPANSION COMMITTEE**  
November 18, 2024  
6:00 P.M.

REC'D BY:



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  
Chris Nikolis  
William Moryto  
David Shute  
Tom Elmore

**Veterans Memorial Expansion Committee Members Absent:**

Raymond Hartford  
Kevin Goff  
Sal Covino

Chairman Gauthier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

None

Chairman Gauthier thanked all of the committee members for stepping up and taking on the Global War on Terror project. He expressed his appreciation for all the hard work and time they committed to the effort and acknowledged that without them it would not have been possible. He also shared the positive feedback he received about the recent unveiling of the monuments on Veterans Day.

**Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 9, 2024**

B. Moryto MOTIONED and F. King seconded to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 9, 2024 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on October 21, 2024**

B. Moryto MOTIONED and D. Shute seconded to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on October 21, 2024 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Set 2025 Committee regular meeting schedule**

Chairman Gauthier presented a quarterly meeting schedule based on conversations held during earlier meetings that suggested there was no longer a need to meet on a monthly basis. The proposed meeting dates are as follows:

- January 13, 2025
- April 14, 2025
- July 14, 2025

- October 20, 2025

D. Shute MOTIONED and B. Moryto seconded to accept the proposed 2025 Regular Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Construction status**

Chairman Gauthier provided an update on the issue with the incorrect wording on the monuments. He explained that all changes had been submitted appropriately on our end, however, Rock of Ages used the wrong CAD file. They have accepted full responsibility and plan to ship new monuments with the proper wording and remove the current monuments at no cost to the town. As a result of this error, we may be able to include additional names to the monument.

### **Other Veterans Park Improvements**

Chairman Gauthier reported that he and Bill Moryto met with an electrical contracting specialist regarding the lighting at Veterans Memorial Park. The specialist advised that well lights should be installed, as well as walkway lights, for proper illumination. He made additional suggestions and offered to draw up a plan for consideration. Chairman Gauthier also reported that a new sidewalk will be installed, after the lighting has been completed, which will be ADA compliant. J.R. Russo has drawn a site plan for the sidewalk and the town DPW has agreed to perform the labor. Other items for consideration include redesigning the hardscaping surrounding the monuments, removing all mulch, and creating a low maintenance solution. Chairman Gauthier hopes to have an idea of the layout by January 2025 in order to move forward with light selection and obtaining appropriate approval to move forward. Discussion ensued among the group, with members offering suggestions on designs, materials, and possible color schemes.

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

Chairman Gauthier reported that he had received three new requests for names to be added to the Global War on Terror monument since the recent unveiling ceremony. K. Goff is currently working on an updated application form which will reflect the change made to include Suffield High School graduates, which was not originally published due to the tight deadline. This change provided an opportunity for additional applicants to become eligible for inclusion. The revised form will be available on the town website in the near future and the committee plans to make another advertising push in the Spring. Chairman Gauthier suggested canceling the December meeting and all agreed. Recording Secretary Kris Lambert mentioned that she is currently working with the Lt. Governor's office to coordinate a Vietnam-Era Veterans Recognition Ceremony to be held on March 31, 2025.

B. Moryto thanked Chairman Gauthier for his dedication and hard work leading the committee in the charge to create the Global War on Terror Memorial and for making the process fair and equitable for all.

### **Public Comment**

None.

B. Moryto MOTIONED and F. King seconded to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary