

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF  
THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION,  
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM – MILLER COMPLEX  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020**

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Best, Ms. Goodwin, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lewis, Mr. MacMullen  
Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Oakes, Mr. Shepard, Mr. Weil

**Commissioners Absent:** Ms. Lupi, Mr. Rountree

**Guests:** Paul Coleman, Phil Goodwin

**Approval of Minutes** – February 4, 2020 - APPROVED.

**Veterans Awareness Day #20 – May 22, 2020** – Mr. Shepard stated there was not much to report. Mr. Weil has gotten feedback from the Coast Guard. They are coming and they're looking for equipment they might be able to bring. There will be more info available as time goes on. There was discussion on speakers. Mr. Oakes would like to have younger speakers to interact with the kids.

Mr. Weil reported the Professor of Military Science at UCONN is also coming and he will send 2 of the cadets. Jason Burke from QU had no one to add. Mr. Oakes asked if the Commissioners have met with their schools. Mr. Shepard, Mr. Mitchell & Mr. Jackson have had contact. For the May meeting Mr. Oakes would like the number of how many students are coming. He also noted there is a meeting Monday at 2:00p in Dan Levy's office.

**Memorial Day Parade – May 25, 2020** – Mr. Oakes reported he has a meeting in the Mayor's Office on Thursday. The Mayor's Office has been sending out emails. They have gotten quite a few responses from participants. Mr. Oakes will have more info for the next meeting. There was brief discussion on Parade Marshals. Ms. Lupi had emailed her nominations to the HVC prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Shepard wanted to recommend Ronnie Maebry, Military. "He does an awful lot for veterans. He's been State Commander for the DAV, next step up - State Commander for AMVETS, Deputy Commander for VFW and in May he becomes the Commander. Ms. Lupi had nominated Ron Weil, Military Marshal. Civilian Marshals: Mr. Oakes nominated Debbie Gaiolini & Mr. Shepard nominated Phil Goodwin. Formal nominations will be made/finalized at the April meeting.

**Memorial Day Ceremony** – Mr. Mitchell reported they divided the responsibilities into 3 Groups: Ms. Lupi, Grand Marshals, Mr. Lewis, Audio/Visual & Mr. Mitchell, MC. Mr. Lewis reported they will be playing music along with some visual effects of the Monument and some sort of military viewings on the screen. He will be meeting with Eric Nyquist, the Director of Fine Arts, BOE. Mr. Nyquist already has some music we might use. Mr. Mitchell noted there were not enough programs last year. He asked for 100 copies for this year's ceremony. Mr. Goodwin will take care of getting the programs. It was also noted that there were changes to the back page of the program.

Mr. Mitchel met with the Commander of Post 88. Post 88 wants the Parade to stop, let the veterans go over to the Monument and do their ceremony at the Monument, and then continue the Parade.

The Commander also felt that the Veterans sat a very long time at the ceremony and at the very end of the ceremony they were given their wreaths to put on the floor. Mr. Mitchell explained that this year we're getting stands for the wreaths which will be placed at the front of the auditorium. It was also suggested that we do the wreaths early in the program.

Mr. Mitchell also suggested getting a Poppy Wreath which can be placed opposite the Remembrance Wreath on the stage. Mr. MacMullen offered to pay for the Poppy Wreath. Mr. Mitchell then suggested giving out poppies to the guests. He has 4 boxes - 4 HVC Members can hand out poppies to each guest. There was discussion on the delivery of the wreaths and veterans placing their wreaths at the Monument.

Mr. Shepard asked for volunteers to work on the booklets. Ms. Lupi, Mr. Jackson & Mr. Weil will help. Mr. Oakes explained that shutting down Dixwell Avenue for the Veterans to stop at the Monument is a problem. The Town has to get a permit from the State to shut down Dixwell Avenue for 1 hour for the Parade because it's a State highway. He also mentioned another problem with Post 88 is they feel they should lead the Parade with their Color Guard.

**Honor Flight to Washington, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – WWII and Korean War Veterans** – Mr. Oakes hasn't talked to Matt Sparks for about 10 days. Mr. Oakes is handling Davenport/Dunbar and Ms. Lupi is handling Whitney Center. They have had no responses yet. He will have Patrick send out a Press Release that will mention the website and emphasize there is no cost for veterans. The cost for Guardians is \$350.00.

**Flags on Graves in Hamden Cemeteries** – Mr. Oakes will order the flags. Mr. Best reported the VFW will be there including the Ladies Auxiliary. Reminder: St Mary's is done on Thursday.

**Flags on Dixwell Avenue** – Mr. Oakes has been working with the Traffic Dept. Mr. Goodwin has been helping with the purchase of the flags (which includes the necessary hardware). The cost is \$49 each.

**Insignias for Freedom Park** – There will be 5 Service Insignias. Mr. Oakes is working on prices. Paul Coleman would like the Service Insignias at Borgnine Park as well. Paul is working with Landino Signs on the Kiosk. Mr. Weil noted that there is a specific order of the Service Insignias: Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force then Coast Guard.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:23p

Submitted by: Deborah Gaiolini  
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk