

**MINUTES OF THE HAMDEN VETERAN'S COMMISSION,  
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM, MILLER COMPLEX,  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Best, Mr. Conway, Mr. Laffin, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Oakes  
Mr. Ortoleva, Mr. Shultz, Mr. Weil

**Absent:** Mr. DiSorbo, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Pavlis

**Guests:** Mr. Garafalo, Mr. Graybill, Mr. Peterson

**Approval of Minutes** – December 7, 2010 – **APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

Mr. Oakes introduced Mr. Peterson from E. Drake Real Estate. Mr. Peterson's wife is currently serving (Army). Mr. Peterson is offering his services to any veteran. 1% off on commissions.

Mr. Garafalo is the owner of Shop-Rite in Hamden & Milford. He wishes to become involved in community and veterans affairs in Hamden.

Mr. Graybill is a financial professional. As a mortgage consultant he processes about 2 VA mortgages/loans a month. He also offers credit counseling.

**Review "Wreaths Across America"** – Mr. McCarthy suggested getting the Elks involved with the lunches for next year (we ran short). Mr. Ortoleva felt it was also a good idea having a "secondary type subject matter, having the wreath given to the trooper's wife. That helped attract the media".

Mr. Oakes reported he sent a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Worcester. They may feature the mural at the HMS in their newsletter. The U.S.O. Magazine has been talking to Kathy Teullings and they're going to put a couple of pages in their monthly publication about the mural as well.

Mr. Oakes would also like to give a gift certificate from Whitney Donut to the gentlemen (Ed & Ted) from the Traffic Dept. "They really went out of their way that day to put the flags up".

**Flag Pole and Plaque at Pavilion** - Mr. Conway reported that there are no flags because of ongoing problems with the locking mechanism. The flags are currently in Mimsie Coleman's office. He may put smaller flags in their place.

Mr. Oakes reported the stone for the plaque is at Nolan Monument. The cost is \$2000. The price includes the stone, engraving and installation. Mr. Oakes suggested an article in the Cof C newsletter seeking business donations. Discussion on LOCIP funds and different fundraising possibilities. Mr. Oakes will meet with the Mayor. Mr. Conway will check on LOCIP Veterans Enhancements. There was also discussion on the wording for the plaque.

**VAD** – The contract is in the Mayor’s Office. First date is Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> – pending QU approval. Alternate date is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Dan Levy prefers the Friday. Don Weinbach (VP Alumni Affairs at QU) thinks he may be able to get a speaker by the name of Sammy Davis. Mr. Davis is a Congressional Medal of Honor winner of Vietnam. If we have him, Mr. Weinbach feels that anticipating the crowds we may get, we may be moved to the gymnasium.

**Moving Wall** – Mr. Oakes & Mr. McCarthy have been talking about bringing the Moving Wall back to Hamden in 2012. There was brief discussion about donors and committees.

**Freedom Park** – Mr. McCarthy reported there have been talks with Jack Kennelly about Freedom Park. There is a huge tree that has been causing problems, breaking concrete, etc. They want to take the tree down and plant a permanent “Christmas Tree” in the same spot. This will also eliminate any further damage being done to the fountain. Mr. McCarthy asked if it’s alright with the HVC to move forward with this project.

**Mr. Shultz made a motion to approve this project. Mr. Oakes seconded. The vote was 7 in favor. Mr. Ortoleva abstained. The motion passed.**

Mr. Shultz commented that whenever Mr. Oakes & Mr. McCarthy are ‘interested in doing something’ –It Gets Done. Therefore, he believes we *will* be hosting the Moving Wall again in 2012. He suggested further discussion on the wording of the plaque taking that into consideration.

It was agreed that further information is required about the stone and the potential to add additional wording in the future.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he would like to get together with the Elks, the Governor’s Foot Guard and the American Legion Post 88 to ‘triple team’ the Town of Hamden on a spaghetti dinner. “If we can raise \$6,500 for 1 spaghetti dinner for the American Warrior, I think we can do \$3,000 or \$4,000 (for the Wall).”

Mr. Conway noted Memorial Day Parade will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> and asked for suggestions for Grand Marshal. Mr. Oakes suggested John Carusone and Gerry Tobin. Mr. Shultz asked, “is there any way we could march in honor of Tom Slater”?

Mr. Conway suggested we ask Noreen Slater to be an Honorary Grand Marshal.

There was brief discussion on the flag case and presentation to Mr. Slater’s wife & family.

Meeting Adjourned 6:36 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Gaiolini, Commission Clerk