

MINUTES: The Veterans Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2011 in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex. The following items were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Abner Oakes, Guy Orteleva, Lou Di Sorbo, Fred McCarthy, Myron Johnson, Peter Laffin, Ron Weil, Ed Schultz, Tom Conway, Sheila Pavlis

Commissioners Excused: John Best

Others in Attendance: Jane Park, Peter Curtis, Dave Lewis, Acting Clerk Gerry Tobin

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mr. Oakes called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Acting Clerk Tobin called the roll.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes May 17, 2011

Mr. McCarthy made a motion to approve the minutes of May 17, 2011. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Old Business

1. Memorial Day Weekend – discussion & suggestions

Mr. McCarthy suggested having the parade on Sunday with a rain date of Monday. Mr. Oakes said Hamden's Memorial Day Parade has been on the Monday of Memorial Day Weekend for years and has been canceled only a few times. When we canceled on Monday we had no options. In our general area,

there are a few towns that have a parade on Saturday and remainder split between Sunday and Monday. Ron Weil doesn't think it is a bad idea, but it might not be doable. He believes if it rains, the parade gets canceled. Mr. Laffin said if you take the rain date out of it, and have it on Sunday, you will get more participation. North Haven's parade is on Saturday, Orange is on Sunday, and the other area towns are on Monday. If it was on Sunday, it would probably have to be at 1:00 p.m. There was discussion on band availability. Mr. Weil has the paperwork filled out for an Army band for next year. Mr. Conway is against having it on a Sunday. The memorial ceremony is traditionally scheduled for noon on the Monday across the Country.

Mr. Oakes has list of parade dates for the state. We will discuss this again at the September Commission meeting. Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Weil to go ahead and book the Army Band for the regular Monday parade date.

Veterans Awareness Day

There are no changes necessary. We had another very successful event. Mr. Weil said he had some good comments as to the way the lunch was set up this year. Mr. Oakes ordered 125 lunches.

2. Fisher House - Fred McCarthy, Peter Laffin

Mr. McCarthy said the tickets have been printed. We will start our fund raising in front of Shop Rite. Peter Laffin said we have to get the word out about what Fisher House is. Fisherhousect.com is the web site. Fisher House is a 501(c)(3). Donors will get a letter in response to their donation. Mr. Conway will check with company that makes lawn signs, to be placed on private property to raise awareness about Fisher House and the upcoming fund raiser. We will also have to do a press release. Mr. McCarthy asked if signs could go on Town property.

3. Gallagher Road Dedication - Friday, June 24, 1:00 p.m.

Gallagher Road is off of Putnam Avenue into the industrial park where Dadio Farm was located. Dale Kroop, Hamden's Economic and Community Development Director is planning this event.

New Business

1. Expenses for Memorial Day

Mr. Oakes reported that the Commission broke even on the flags. Five funeral homes donated a total of \$1,200. Next year we should order 2100 flags. Mr. McCarthy has a couple of flags left. Ms. Park placed 172 flags, and has two dozen left. Mr. Oakes still has two gross at home.

2. "Thank you letters for memorial day weekend – Abner Oakes

Thank you letters have gone out to the funeral homes, Boy Scouts, Aces, the two singers and Reverend Sanderson. Commissioners also thanked Lou DiSorbo for the wonderful cake he donated for Veterans Awareness Day.

A recommendation for the appointment of Dan Levy to the position of principal of the Middle School was sent from the Commission.

Mr. Oakes announced that on the Friday after Memorial Day, he attended "An Eyewitness to History" at North Haven High School. They had some outstanding speakers, three who served in Vietnam, one from each of the Army, Navy and Air Force. One of them became a speechwriter for Ronald Reagan. He and Mr. Orteleva are thinking of putting on a similar program in Hamden in the Fall.

Mr. Schultz said last Thursday night at 9:00 he saw a film on television of an American Warriors flight. Participants were picked up at the airport and the cameras followed them on their trip. Bob Wilson was the narrator. The video is available. Mr. McCarthy said the group in the video were from Minnesota. Mr.

McCarthy said Hamden's next trip is in September, and Pat Corso was selected to participate.

Ron Weil said Bristol had a Community Salutes program on Memorial Day Weekend, in honor of 19-20 kids that enlisted in the service. One of his friends was involved. There was another program like this in New York. Perhaps this is something we might want to do in Hamden.

3. Dedication Flag Pole and Monument in Town Center Park at 5:45 p.m. today

Mr. Conway made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Ms. Park reminded Commissioners to attend the buffet dinner following the flag ceremony and dedication.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Acting Clerk