

**MINUTES FROM THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION,  
SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2015**

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Best, Ms. Goodwin, Mr. Howland, Mr. Johnson  
Ms. Lupi, Mr. Oakes, Mr. Weil

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Laffin, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Shultz

**Guests:** Mr. Goodwin, Ms. Driebeck, Mr. Levy, Ms. Rumanni, Mr. Del Giudice & TSA Team Members

**Approval of Minutes** – February 3, 2015 – **APPROVED**

**Town Hall Rotunda** – Ms. Lupi welcomed Mr. Dean DelGiudice and members of the TSA Team (HMS). “They have come and viewed our Rotunda, they took pictures and did a video. They are researching the history of the Rotunda and are in the process of designing a brochure for the public to take as they come to visit the newly renovated Town Hall”.

Kyle Driebeck stepped forward with Michael Loalbo, Andrew Larocque & Aminha Younas to detail their project and the research involved. They also presented sample brochures for the HVC to review.

Mr. DelGiudice told the HVC, “we welcome any additions or revisions”. Mr. Howland suggested all comments should be emailed to Ms. Lupi. Ms. Lupi stated, “I'm so excited about this. I think it's an awesome project and I'm so happy that you wanted to participate. We appreciate all the time and effort you put into this”.

ALL Members of the Team: Matthew Brooks, Kyle Driebeck, Andrew Larocque, Michael Loalbo, Carter Richards, Cooper Roche, Miles Singer and Aminha Younas.

Mr Oakes added that he's very impressed and a big supporter of the student's efforts and would like to see a similar project done for Freedom Park. The first park in CT dedicated to POW/MIA's (1971).

**Memorial Day Parade 2015** – Mr. Howland reported that he and Mr. Laffin had discussed need for more parade marshals. They also had talked about using CERT. He will go wherever he's needed. Volunteers are fine. CERT & Teen CERT were suggested – but no kids near the vehicles. Having additional marshals will be much more helpful – especially with the vehicles.

Mr. Best noted that he'd spoken with people from the Special Olympics. “As they were getting ready to march out, cars that were parked across the street at CVS pulled out right in front of them – really close to some of those kids. Is there something we can do about the cars that don't go into the lot? That park on the street? Police were there until the parade started”.

There was brief discussion on vehicles, cars cutting in & needing HPD assistance. Certain groups cause confusion and potential safety concerns by not following Parade Orders.

**Grand Marshal** – Mr. Oakes reported that there are no rules in place as far as a selection process is concerned. Prior to the HVC handling the parade it was done by Gus Melillo, Post 150. Ms. Lupi stated that all nominations are sent through the HVC. The HVC makes the recommendations to the Mayor. Mr. Howland added that all nominations should include info on the nominee.

There was discussion about forming a committee to recommend guidelines and present such to the full Commission for discussion and approval. There needs to be some sort of policy/procedure in place.

Mr Weil felt that in the future this should be discussed in Executive Session. He recommended we hold off until the April meeting.

**Awareness Day 2015** - Mr. Oakes will be meeting with Dan Levy to see how far along we are. We don't have North Haven High. He will have more info at the April meeting.

**Veterans' Memorabilia** – Mr. Goodwin spoke with the Director of the library. She has a display case that she has offered to give to the HVC. We can display medals, photos, whatever we want. He asked a) Do we want to accept it? b) Where do we put it? c) What do we want to put in it? There was discussion about where it should be placed. It was agreed we want to accept. Location – TBD.

**“Save a Suit”** - Jessica Ewud, Executive Director of “Save a Suit” will Be at the Chamber event. The organization was founded to provide suits to veterans for job interviews. Many vets don't have a suit and tie and shoes. There is a need for women clothes & accessories too. The owner of D'Camm Limited is also involved in collecting suits to give to veterans.

**Hamden Chamber of Commerce Expo Fair – April 15<sup>th</sup>** – There are 2 venues: 1) Companies seeking employees, 2) Education for vets. The military has come out with an employee partnership program.

Ariel Vogel of West Hartford is coming to the meeting. He has job listings and can match job openings with applicants. This is all about helping veterans get jobs.

**Mr. Weil made a motion that “the HVC sponsor the Public Private Partnership/Ariel Vogel, at the Chamber of Commerce event on April 15<sup>th</sup>”. Mr. Johnson seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion Passed.**

**Veterans Wall at Hamden High School – April 7, 2015 – 7:00pm – HHS Auditorium** – Mr. Weil updated all on status of the Wall at HHS. It is to recognize former employees of HHS. The coins Doc Messiah designed should be in within the next week or so. Doc had also asked for his assistance with getting service reps. So far he has confirmed Reps from the Professional Naval Science Marine Office, a Marine Officer, Army ROTC & Coast Guard. He's still working on the Air Force. The Coins will be passed out to the individuals by the representatives of their service.

Mr. Goodwin suggested the HVC have a table at the event. There was also discussion on creating a sign for the HVC.

**Legal Update – VA Proposed Rule Change** – Cherie Larson Strucaly distributed info on the VA's Proposed Rule Change, the Veteran Benefit Program and the Agency on Aging's Monthly News & Notes. She reviewed the contents and reported that Mr. Mitchell is involved in the Benefits Check Up Program. She asked that everyone read the program and formally submit their comments to the address or email

address listed on the proposal. The deadline for public comments is March 24, 2015.

**Veteran's Assistance Agencies** – Mr. Weil mentioned the list of agencies the clerk had emailed to the Commissioners. “It's a laundry list of agencies. If a vet needs assistance they can go on the list and find assistance”.

**Change of Date April Meeting - Reminder!** Our **April Meeting will be on THURSDAY, April 16<sup>th</sup>**. The time is still 5:30 and we will meet in our usual location Miller (Activity Room).

Mr. Oakes closed the meeting by stating he'd like to invite the TSA Students to march in the parade with the dignitaries.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Submitted by:                     *Deborah Gaiolini*                      
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk