

**MINUTES FROM THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION,  
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM, MILLER COMPLEX,  
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2015**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Shultz

**Guests:** Phil Goodwin, Cathy Larson, Cal Shepard, Cherie Strucaly, Lily Zeffiro

**Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2015 – APPROVED**

**Memorial Day Parade 2015** – Mr. Oakes began discussion by saying he thought it went “very, very well”. He thanked everyone for their hard work with a special Thank You to Elissa Lupi & Peter Laffin.

There was input from CERT members. Cathy Larson felt CERT needs to start earlier. The sooner CERT knows the drill – the better. Mr. Howland (CERT & HVC) thought “the tickets are the best! With tickets in the windshield they were easier to line up”. Cars parking on Dixwell in front of CVS are still a problem. We need HPD involvement. Mr. Weil noted: “there are only a certain number of organizations there are issues with. Notify them”.

Mr. Goodwin suggested CERT put up the barricades earlier. Mr. Lewis suggested the buses & shuttle buses drop off at Chili's. Mr. Best noted that before parade started there were a lot of cars in #1, 2 & 3 – the parents do not want to leave their kids. And as always, the late arrivals are a problem. Mr. Goodwin also noted there was confusion with the Dancing Unlimited Trailer. The parade orders are very specific. If they park on Dixwell Ave, HPD has to tell them to move.

Mr. Mitchell agreed. “They know they're not supposed to be there. And their vehicles keep getting bigger”. Mr. Laffin expressed concern about kids on trailers. Liability issues. Mr. Oakes will follow up on that with Art Giulietti, Risk Manager. Mr. Goodwin added: “it's in the rules. Any floats need approval”.

Mr. Oakes has still been getting calls from individuals who are not pleased that their nominee was not selected as a parade marshal for this year. This led to a group discussion again about forming a committee to compose written guidelines. There needs to be a policy/procedure in place. And an actual Nomination Form. Having written guidelines in place will help to assure that recommendations are based on specific criteria.

**Veterans Awareness Day 2015** – All agreed with Mr. Johnson that “it was terrific!” Mr. Weil and Mr. Mitchell noted there were not as many young people using the workbook. It was discussed that perhaps the format/questions need to be changed. Mr. Mitchell added that he thought the student population was perfect. The kids were able to move around and interact better. He also commented that the kids relate well to the females. Mr. Weil reported that he will be addressing “the Army People”. They are not supposed to bring referral cards.

**State Street Cemetery** – Mr. Howland explained to the guests that this is not an HVC project. It is totally a volunteer effort. Ms. Zeffiro (who is an attorney) has done considerable research on State Street Cemetery. “The conditions are deplorable”. Her daughter Lily attends West Woods Academy.

The students have done clean ups and have adopted 2 Civil War Veterans. She read aloud several legal items/legislation regarding the care of cemeteries, etc. Ms. Zeffiro believes that since the Legislation has been passed, the funding should be available. Mr. Oakes will contact Rep Brendan Sharkey. He will also get in touch with Mike D'Agostino and get him involved. Ms. Lupi mentioned the funding available through Historic Properties Commission. As Mr. Howland stated, "it needs perpetual care".

**Flags on Veterans' Graves** – Mr Oakes reported approximately 2200 flags were placed on veterans graves at no cost to the HVC or the Town of Hamden - Thanks again to Beecher & Bennett, Howard Hill, Sisk & Torello! Flags were placed at Hamden Plains, St Mary's, Washington Ave. Ms. Park took care of Beaverdale – as always.

Kudos given to Elijah Neveski, Member of Troop 608, for the work he's done at the Veterans' Memorial as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Oakes stated "the Memorial looks great" and reviewed the scope of work: weeding, planting red, white & blue flowers, laying down new mulch, trimming bushes and repair to the existing bench. He (Elijah) will continue to provide care.

**Fisher House Fund Raising at Shop Rite – This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year at Shop Rite.** Kevin Creed and Tom Flowers were in New Jersey last week and received a check for \$60K from Shop Rite Corporate. Scheduling is still an issue. CERT Teams will be there every Saturday during June. There is still a need for Fridays & Sundays to be covered. Mr. Laffin, Ms. Lupi and Mr. Mitchell are coordinating on covering Fridays while Mr. Howland, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Oakes, Mr. Weil and Lauren & Phil Goodwin can help out on Sundays. There are still hours that need to be covered. Volunteers are still needed...

**Quilt from Library** – Ms. Lupi reported "the work order is in!" Dan Levy said yes – the Quilt has been approved to be hung on the wall outside the auditorium. "When you come in the door, you can't miss it". She also added the Rotunda brochures are in their final draft. Mr. Oakes informed all that the HVC has received a Thank You note from the TSA students. He also feels it would nice if we could dedicate the Quilt on the anniversary of 9-11

**Letter of Recommendation for Zach Deutscher** – "Zach (former HVC Commissioner) has applied for a job with the Hamden Fire Dept. My feeling is that maybe, as the Veterans Commission, we should write a letter of recommendation to the Fire Commission promoting him as the leading candidate..." Everyone agreed.

**Flags on Poles on Dixwell Ave** – Mr. Oakes reported on the complaints about the flags on the telephone poles on Dixwell Ave. He explained, many of the telephone poles have rough, sharp edges. When the flags blow in the wind, the flags will blow against the pole (and those rough edges), which causes them to look frayed. He will discuss options with Ted Braza, Traffic Dept. The flags will remain on display up until Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by: Deborah Gaiolini  
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk