

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF  
THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION,  
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM – MILLER COMPLEX  
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023**

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Best, Mr. Cardo, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Kautzner, Mr. Lewis  
Ms. Lupi, Mr. Shepard, Mr. Weil

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Maebry

**Guests:** Carole Passarelli, Linda Bishop

**Approval of Minutes** – February 7, 2023 – Approved with Corrections.

Mr. Shepard noted a correction to the Minutes of February 7<sup>th</sup>. Under VAD, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, Change Veterans Awareness *Dan* to Veterans Awareness *Day*. Mr. Weil noted sentence 2 should read, “There is a conflict for the *Hamden Board of Ed*”. Mr. Cardo motioned to Approve the Minutes as Amended. Mr. Weil seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Passarelli & Ms. Bishop are from the Hamden Womens Club. They shared info on their organization and what they do in the community. They Co-Chair the Home Life Committee which is really involved with many projects including 330 bookmarks for the homebound van out of Miller Library. Over the past years they’ve done projects/fundraisers for veterans, children, the elderly, Alzheimer’s, etc. Since the pandemic they realized they hadn’t had much contact with any veterans groups or activities. She spoke of the spectacular Flag Presentation the HVC had done with Abner Oakes. She & Ms. Bishop are looking at their programing for this year and next year. They would like to know what the HVC is involved in that they may be able to collaborate with and also share information, etc.

Mr. Weil reviewed the mission of the HVC. “Basically we take care of veterans issues as they have them, if they come to us. We don’t solve many of them but we point them in the right direction”. He told them about VAD, the Memorial Day Parade and the Veterans Day Ceremony. Ms. Lupi gave some detail on the Flag Placements and the HVC Office at the Government Center.

Ms. Passarelli said they have many new members. She will be in touch with Ms. Lupi to get more info on various events/activities. They also have a monthly newsletter so they can get the word out to their members about upcoming events.

**Office Updates** – Ms. Lupi reported no one came to the HVC office during her time there. She checked voice mails. Responded to Eugene Palmieri’s message and helped him with his issues. She delivered binders to Mr. Cardo so he can begin to organize the files for the office. She felt she got a lot done during her time there.

Mr. Lewis took the book in the office apart and put the various sections in files. He made a reference book with the materials that were left in the office. He brought in a 3-hole punch and left it there for future use. We need tabs & labels for the binder/files. He straightened out the office and cleared/deleted the phone messages.

Mr. Kautzner had nothing to report. Mr. Shepard asked about the sign stand. He will follow up with Phil Goodwin on that.

**Memorial Day Parade** – Ms. Lupi reported at their previous Parade meeting, Traffic was in attendance. They have a banner for us. It can say whatever we want. It will be hung from the train bridge across Dixwell Avenue. It was suggested it say, “Thank You Hamden Veterans”. Alexa will get in touch with HHS Student Organizations about participating in the Parade. The next Parade meeting is Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Lupi also listed all that needs to be done/areas that need assistance: \*Someone to take over the interviews & speechwriting for Grand Marshals, \*Someone to contact the organizations for the wreaths, \*The Ceremony – Mr. Jackson volunteered, \*We need a Pastor/Priest/Rabbi, \*Reservations for the Auditorium at HMS for the Ceremony and \*the Flags.

Mr. Jackson reported he contacted the Ebony Horsewomen. The Cost is \$1500.00. He’s also reaching out to the Buffalo Soldiers. And, he’s waiting to get the contact info for the New Haven School Bands. Once received he will follow up.

**Veterans Awareness Day** – Mr. Weil reported he’s spoken with Jason at QU. There’s no issue with holding VAD in November. It may not be in the gym where we usually are, but we will have space. Jason agreed having VAD in November is a good idea. Mr. Jackson wanted to confirm it will be on Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup> .

**Purple Heart Plaque/Parking Space** – Mr. Lewis reported the Plaque will go on display in the lobby at the Government Center. The Parking spot will be designated as the first parking space up the hill on the right.

**Update on Chairman/Clerks Meeting** – Mr. Weil and Ms. Gaiolini reviewed some of the topics that were discussed at the Mandatory Meeting of Commission Chairpersons and Clerks including but not limited to: FOIA, Public Input, Executive Sessions, Proper Agendas, Legal Postings, etc.

The next B/C meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup> – “Zoom Training via Zoom”. Numerous topics to follow.

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Boards & Commission Fair – Miller Library – 11a-1p.

March 28<sup>th</sup> – QU Social Work Month Event

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50p.

Submitted by: Deborah Gaiolini  
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk