

**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING, BROOKSVALE PARK
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

Commissioners Present: Mr. Best, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Lupi, Mr. Maebry
Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Oakes, Mr. Shepard, Mr. Weil

Guests: Gabor “Gabe” Kautzner

Approval of Minutes – April 6, 2021 - APPROVED.

Mr. Kautzner is a Hamden resident. He was in the U.S. Army. He was deployed in Iraq. He served 20 years, mostly Reserve time. He’s been working at the VA since 2005. He works at the Vet Center which deals with combat veterans. He spoke of State of CT Stand Down. They did virtual Stand Down last year and he’s feeling out to see where they might have a Stand Down in the future. None have been done in New Haven or Middlesex County. He’s thinks Hamden covers a good area. Another possibility is Wallingford.

Memorial Day – Monday, May 31, 2021 – Mr. Mitchell has poppies that he’d like to offer to people in the crowd. He distributed copies of the sample Program. Mr. Goodwin will make the copies, 2-sided in color if possible. Mr. Shepard will handle the Patriotic music.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the program and each Commissioner’s assignment. Mr. Mitchell will be the MC. Mr. Weil will assist the Color Guard (HFD & HPD). Mr. Maebry will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation & Benediction by Rabbi Brockman. The Meaning of Memorial Day will be presented by Mr. Lewis. Guest Speakers are Town Clerk, Vera Morrison and Mayor Curt Leng. Mr. Best will handle the Veterans Organization Wreaths. Mr. Jackson will announce the Moment of Silence. Closing Remarks by Ms. Lupi.

The press release went out on April 22nd . Mr. Oakes & Patrick Donnelley sent out the invites.

There will be a practice session for the Commissioners on Friday, May 28th at 4:30p.

Flags on Graves – Ms. Lupi reported “we have a plethora of flags thanks to Jane Park”. Jane would go back and collect all the flags she had placed at the graves. Bob at the Elks gave Ms. Lupi a huge box of used flags most of which are in good shape. Mr. Goodwin has 15 gross in his office.

Ms. Lupi noted she has a lot of people coming in to help in addition to the Commissioners. 2 new Scout troops. There’s about another 20 people to help. There’s a woman named Barbara who wants to do the cemetery on Alling Street.

- Alling Street - Barbara
- Centerville – Bill Earley on Saturday
- Mt Carmel – Elissa Lupi
- St Mary’s – Phil Goodwin – Thursday
- Whitneyville – Tyrone Mitchell – Thursday
- West Woods – Dan Levy - Saturday
- Hamden Plains – Elissa Lupi w/Ron Weil, Reggie Jackson, Johnnie Best - Saturday
- State Street – Ms. Lupi gave brief history of clean up/improvements done.

She reviewed the placement of the flags. She also created instructions for volunteers.

History of Veterans Building, Brooksvale Park – Ms. Lupi spoke of Brooksvale Park, “Hamden’s biggest secret”. So many people don’t know about it. She shared info about the Park, the Veterans Memorial Building, Ranger Vinny Lavorgna and Peter Laffan and all the different types of events and activities that go on at Brooksvale Park.

Maple Sugaring. Wreath making. Skating pond. Summer Camps. The Bees and the Gardens. On Sunday mornings you can come up and purchase vegetable they’ve grown here. All the money comes back to the park.

In conversation with Ranger Vinny she had asked about space in the VMB for the Veterans Commission. A small space to make into a little office or drop-in center. To be discussed further.

There was discussion about doing a history of the Hamden Veterans Commission. Compiling a list of all Commission Members.

Mr. Lewis reported that today is the 3rd Anniversary of the Fisher House CT.

Mr. Goodwin mentioned his wife Lauren, former Veterans Commissioner, would donate chocolates, cookies and candies that she used to make (until Covid happened) that they would hand out to the people that were there.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40p

Submitted by: Deborah Gaiolini
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk