

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION  
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING, BROOKSVALE PARK  
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Kautzner, Mr. Maebry

**Guests:** Dan Levy

**Approval of Minutes** – May 4, 2021 - APPROVED.

**Abner Oakes Funeral** – Mr. Weil began by saying Ms. Lupi did a fantastic job of ordering the flowers and getting them delivered. It was a very nice arrangement and appreciated by the family. After the service, he and Mr. Maebry went to Ludal's and Abner's sons immediately came over and took them to sit with the family. They were very appreciative of the fact that members of the Commission were able to come. They were together for a couple of hours and talking about Abner. They thought what we did for his funeral was exceptional and they liked it very much.

**Memorial Day Ceremony** – Mr. Weil felt it went extremely well. It was a good, organized presentation. Nice crowd. The Color Guard did a nice job and the wreaths looked good – the wreath stands are a good idea. Mr. Mitchell thought there were a lot of people around the podium.

Mr. Mitchell brought wreath stands to the meeting to show the Commissioners. He commented on the Poppy Garden at the Monument and said as he went around Town he saw a lot of poppies planted on public grounds in Hamden. Ms. Lupi noted that's the work of the Town Gardener. "She is awesome".

Ms. Lupi sent Thank You Notes to Lyn Baumgartner the Town Gardener and Ken Paecht the Parks Superintendent. Mr. Weil said next year we should do whatever we do outside. The auditorium is never full. We probably had the same number of people this year outside. Mr. Shepard spoke of the Flag painted on the lawn in front of the Monument. He said it looks great but asked if it could be moved off to the side so the people can get closer to the Monument. No One would step on the Flag.

**Flags on Graves in Hamden Cemeteries** – Ms. Lupi reported she received a call from a woman at Comcast. The veterans at Comcast want to give back to the veteran community. They would like to work on some kind of project to work in conjunction with us. There are 8 cemeteries in Hamden. She'd like to do a plot plan for each cemetery and mark all the veteran's graves. At some point we may have a total registry.

She also said she made a contact at Hamden Plains. This gentleman is also the caretaker at a cemetery in New Britain. He wants her to contact him every year just before we're going there (to place the flags) so he can make sure everything is mowed and cleaned up. He was very receptive.

Ms. Lupi reported we have 124 boxed flags. There are at least 2000 in a box from Jane Park. Jane would go back and collect all the flags she had placed at the graves. She proposed to one of the Girl Scout Troops a project to group all the flags in groups of 12. Mr. Shepard noted the Brownies and Girl Scouts did an awesome job placing the flags on the graves.

**Election of the Vice Chairman** – Mr. Weil opened up the meeting to Nominations for Vice Chair. *Mr. Mitchell nominated Dave Lewis as Vice Chairman. Mr. Goodwin seconded the nomination. The vote in favor was unanimous.*

**Stands for the Floral Wreaths** – 10 Wreath Stands will be purchased.

**Updated Roster** – The Clerk distributed copies of our Roster/Contact List. Updates/corrections will be made and a revised copy will be emailed to all.

Mr. Weil mentioned that Peter Laffin, former HVC Commissioner, had stopped by prior to our meeting. He is working on a project with the Friends of Brooksvale and wanted to know if we were interested in joining in on that project. It involves planting a maple tree or maple trees. He wants to honor Fred McCarthy. And others going forward. There was brief discussion on the purchase of a tree, a plaque, etc.

Mr. Weil noted our next project is Veterans Day. Ms. Lupi asked if we're going back in the schools. Mr. Levy said there is no guidance right now about reopening. He is pushing for visitors to be able to access the schools. He suggested the HVC start planning for something. He thinks we will be involved.

Mr. Shepard asked about the hats for the HVC. There was brief discussion. *Mr. Goodwin made the motion to purchase 15 hats at the price of \$15 each to be funded through the Special Account. Mr. Shepard seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous. Motion passed.*

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35p

Submitted by: Deborah Gaiolini  
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk