

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF  
THE HAMDEN VETERANS COMMISSION,  
SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITY ROOM – MILLER COMPLEX  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Goodwin

**Guests:** Dolphuss Addison

**Approval of Minutes** – September 7, 2021 - APPROVED.

Mr. Anthony Cardo is the newest member of the HVC. He grew up in Hamden and has helped out the HVC during his time as a Boy Scout with the Memorial Day Parade & the placement of flags. He was also an Eagle Scout. He has a Masters in Military History and is currently working on his Masters in American Military History. He also volunteers at the West Haven Veterans Museum.

**Veterans Day Ceremony** – Mr. Lewis distributed copies of the Program for all to review and discuss. The plan is to have the event at the Monument with the Rotunda as a back-up if inclement weather. Mr. Shepard will contact Michelle at HMS regarding the podium, chairs and parking. In the past Abner Oakes contacted the organizations regarding the wreaths. Ms. Lupi has the list of organizations. She will contact them and Shelly at Flowers from the Farm.

Mr. Lewis said we will need the large, 2 speaker system from the Arts Commission. That one system will work for us indoors or outdoors. Mr. Shepard & Mr. Mitchell will act as Back Up if we're not able to find someone to play TAPS. The Clerk will notify the Parks Dept that we do not want the Flag painted on the lawn in front of the Monument.

The Rotunda and the Auditorium have been reserved in case we need to move the ceremony indoors. Mr. Weil will meet with Director Craig Cesare to make arrangements for a custodian to work on Veterans Day to open the building and set up chairs.

Mr. Jackson has been working on Guest Speakers. Katherine at the Vet Center gave him the name of Brian Curtis. He's an Afghan vet. He would be glad to do it. Mr. Jackson asked for any suggestions, things they want him to talk about. Mr. Weil met with Jason Burke. Jason's going to check on getting one of the medical students (female). There was discussion on the number of speakers and time limits on speeches. Mr. Mitchell asked to review the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

The words for the National Anthem and God Bless America are printed on the program for people to sing along. Mr. Cardo will read the poem "In Flanders Fields".

Mr. Maebry asked about doing something to honor Abner Oakes. We should recognize all his contributions. Mr. Weil said "He's the next item on the Agenda". He also noted that Town is also doing something.

**Road Race** – Mr. Addison reviewed the info he had available for the Road Race. It is to be called The Abner Oakes III Road Race. It's October 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be a 5K starting at either Town Center

Park or at the MSA Gym. More info can be found on FB. Mr. Weil asked what the HVC can do to assist. Mr. Addison said they don't need "bodies" but will accept donations of granola bars and things like that.

**Message Reply** – Mr. Weil requested that people do not hit Reply All when responding to emails (unless truly necessary). It clogs the network.

**Political Affiliation** – The Rules for the HVC say we have 11 people. 8 members must be veterans. 3 do not. No more than 7 members from the same political party. He passed around our Vets Contact List and asked each Member to indicate their affiliation.

**Commission Charter** – Mr. Weil informed all that the Commission Charter can be found online.

**Office and Meeting in Town Hall** – After some discussion it was agreed that the HVC will continue to hold its meetings at The Senior Activity Room at the Miller Complex. All members were encouraged to visit the HVC's office located in the Recreation Office at the Government Center.

Mr. Weil mentioned he met with Jason Burke this afternoon. They don't know when the construction at QU will be completed. He and Jason will be meeting with the secretary of the President at QU to discuss Veterans Awareness Day. Memorial Day is after all their graduations are over. There's always at the top of the hill. We may or may not have a venue. He's hopeful that he will have more information for our next meeting.

Mr. Shepard asked that everyone take a look at the website and send him any suggestions or comments. He will consolidate the info and get it added to the website. He also thought we could have a little "blurb" about the display case on our main page.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53p

Submitted by: Deborah Gaiolini  
Deborah Gaiolini, HVC Clerk