

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025, 6:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
84 SOUTH MAIN ST.**

Present:

Don Falk, Chair
Scott Allard, Vice- Chair
Pam Guglielmino, Secretary
Jeff Falk
Thomas Hickey
Leslie Marinaro
Nancy Tapp

Staff/Guests:

Kristen Cherry, Social Worker; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager.

Absent:

Don Falk called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Falk called the meeting to order at 6:00

2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Guglielmino called the role and a quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was resided

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had planned to bring a guest speaker, Hank Bolden, and will have him come to a future meeting.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Jeff Falk and **SECONDED** by Pam Guglielmino to approve the meeting minutes of the and the motion passed unanimously by all those present.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Bartlem Park

Andrew Martelli gave an update on the construction of the park and dedication scheduled for September 12th followed by the annual Fall Festival on the 13th.

Discussion centered on the development of the Veterans area at Bartlem Park and having the architect (SLR) come to the next meeting. Chairman Falk will reach out to SLR about the medal of honor

plaza and the Veterans area at Bartlem. Chairman Falk reached out to John White who would like to have the Medal of Honor Plaza remain at the front of Bartlem Park. Chairman Falk will follow up for the next meeting. Planning efforts will continue now that the Committee is back from summer break. The Flagpole was discussed as part of the Veterans area at Bartlem and is seen as a major part of the Project.

b. Town Hall Memorial

The memorial was reviewed and it's the opinion of Chairman Falk that not all plaques need to be replaced. Barker Specialty has been contacted and will be working with the Committee. It's important to match up the plaques and allow for additional names to be added. The original intent of the Memorial was to have only those who enlisted from Cheshire as evidenced by their DD-214 included and the Committee had previously voted to retain this policy. Leslie Marinaro stressed that it's important to get an estimated cost for this project to determine the budget available for Bartlem and future fundraising needs.

Thomas Hickey expressed the need to organize the names and ensure that everyone is included. Andrew Martelli mentioned that he would provide the list of names for the next meeting. Andrew will send the application out to the group for review so additional individuals could submit via the Town's website.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Municipal Vet Rep transition to the Veterans Advisory Committee

Kristen Cherry discussed that the Municipal Vet Rep function is partially being done by the Veterans Advisory Committee. Kristen explained the process and duties; coordinate with local, state and national organizations to identify veteran benefits, re-employment, educational opportunities, and other services.

By State Regulation, a committee can assume the role of Municipal Vet Rep. as long as a specific individual is named as a contact. Kristen described how other towns have formed committees and that minimal training is required. The role is essentially a referral hub for various services. Leslie inquired how the process would work and how someone seeking assistance would be connected to the Committee for services. Jeff Falk pointed out that the local representative would be listed on the VA website with contact. Kristen explained that now individuals reach out to her, and she provides contacts for assistance. Tom Hickey raised concern about it not being a Town function and his reluctance for the responsibility to fall on the Committee that only meets monthly.

The work would be non-emergency, non-crisis assistance to connect individuals to assistance. Kristen would filter requests from the public to the committee. Nancy Tapp mentioned that it sounds more like social service activities than an advisory role and since the committee is advisory in nature, she fears individuals could fall through the cracks.

Calls will continue to be made to the Human Services office, and a Town email account will be created for requests of service to be filtered to. Jeffrey Falk offered to be the point person for contact. Kristen would seek to establish a Town email.

MOTION: Shall the Veterans Advisory Committee be appointed as the Municipal Vet Rep for the Town of Cheshire, with Jeffrey Falk as the identified point person."

MOTION made by Don Falk and **SECONDED** by Tom Hickey. Motion passed unanimously by all those present.

b. Guest

There was no guest speaker at the meeting.

c. Fall Festival

There will not be a Veterans Advisory Committee tent at the Fall Festival this year, but other local Veterans Organizations will be in attendance.

d. Veterans Day

Veterans will be contacted to meet at the Medal of Honor Plaza with pizza to follow at Cheshire High School. Veterans will be honored at the Football Game on Friday, November 7th 2025.

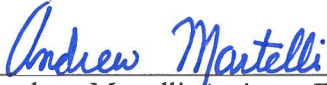
e. Commissioning of USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr.

The USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. will be commissioned in March or April in Norfolk VA. If anyone is interested in going, they can contact Don or Jeff Falk who will put together a spreadsheet to attend.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made by Jeff Falk and **SECONDED** by Leslie Marinaro to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm.

Attest:



Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager