

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.,
84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present: Chairman Don Falk, Vice-Chairman Scott Allard, Members at Large Jeff Falk, Thomas Hickey, Leslie Marinaro

Absent: Secretary Pam Gugliemino, Nancy Tapp, Kristen Cherry

Staff/Guests: Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager and John Bajor (Minutes Clerk).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Don Falk called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The roll was taken by John Bajor and the pledge was recited.

3. SEATING OF ALTERNATES AS NEEDED FOR QUORUM

Chairman Don Falk seated all commissioners for voting.

4. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thomas Hickey noted several minor corrections were needed and would send an email to Andrew Martelli. As minor, they were not discussed in the present meeting.

MOTION by Don Falk to approve the prior meeting minutes once updated and corrected

SECONDED by Jeff Falk, with motion passing unanimously by those present.

6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Bartlem Park:** It will cost approximately 10K to move the Medal of Honor Plaza from current location. Suggestion to place in knoll with 5 new trees. Jerry Lodynsky designed the tear drop and would require his approval to move. Action for Andrew to find any relevant paperwork and bring Jerry into future discussions. Action for Don Falk to approach John Milone and architect for their ideas.

MOTION by Don Falk to present current plan to John Milone on moving MOH plaza
SECONDED by Thomas Hickey, with motion passing unanimously by those present

B: Town Hall Memorial: Don Falk spoke with Jerry Barker and will cost 30-35K for 2 new plaques with additional names for Korean and Vietnam veterans. Andrew has an Excel file (50 pages) that has names starting from Revolutionary War to present and distributed copies to members present. There are some spelling errors on names as well as duplicate names. Action for members to go through list.

C: Municipal Vet Rep: Andrew to set up email and landing page for requests. for requests on Town website. Any requests will be forward to Don and Jeff Falk and cc to Kristen Cherry. Don and Jeff will work with VA directly on “Comfort Keepers” program to provide services in-home such as driving veterans to appointments, cooking and cleaning. There is no charge as the VA pays directly.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Cheshire High School Wall of Fame:** , Upon entering the high school will notice plaques of honored veterans. Don Falk suggested a plaque for Bob Rumberg, a 1962 graduate who served in Air Force and Vietnam. In 1975 Bob ejected and broke his neck. Motion to have Bob backed by Veterans Council:

MOTION by Don Falk to promote Bob Rumberg to CHS Wall of Fame
SECONDED by Thomas Hickey, with motion passing unanimously by those present

- B. **Veterans Day:** Plan is to honor veterans at 5 PM on Friday, November 7 right before CHS football game at 6:45. Boy scouts will recite pledge of allegiance with pizza. It would be nice to have a veteran speak. Several names were floated around including perhaps a student. Action to get word out to veterans with regard to ceremony.
- C. **Budget:** Discussion on if this committee needs a budget (i.e. installation of flag pole or \$100 for ads). Andrew noted that this committee has a 200K budget which comes out of town budget
- D. **Character Development Program:** This would include Medal of Honor Society including patriotism, valor and truth. Don sent an email to committee members and will be discussed at a future meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Don Falk to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm.

SECONDED by Leslie Marinaro with motion passing unanimously by those present.

Attest:


John Bajor