

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.,
84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present: Chairman Don Falk, Vice-Chairman Scott Allard, Jeff Falk, Thomas Hickey, Leslie Marinaro, Nancy Tapp

Absent:, Emily Trudeau

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 6:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The roll call was taken by John Bajor and a quorum was present

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing of an official nature received. Chairman Don Falk did receive an informal request of a resident who would like to be on the committee who has the necessary qualifications.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 8, 2026

MOTION by Thomas Hickey to approve the prior meeting minutes as issued
SECONDED by Scott Allard, with motion passing unanimously by those present

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Bartlem Park Project Planning:** John Milone and David Dixon presented Chairman Don Falk with estimates from SLR for scope of work: Approximately \$50,000 for initial planning and details and approximately \$500,000 for entire project. What will not be covered includes: survey services, survey stakeout, electrical engineering, non-regulatory permits and irrigation design. The Town has a grant for \$200,000 from the Connecticut State Veterans that must be spent by December 21, 2026. This money is not in the Veterans Committee account but the Cheshire Town account so will need formal quotes and presentations to release funds.

Andrew Martelli suggested moving on project as to not lose funds and will schedule a meeting to discuss planning and design details with SLR and Public Works Division (to determine what work can be done in-house). Currently proposed for Wednesday, March 18th at 2:30 PM. There is sufficient electrical space available in panel behind bandstand and solar lighting can be utilized for walkway. When have official scope of work and costs, present a formal proposition to Town Council for funding (meets 2nd Tuesday of each month).

Leslie Marinaro suggested flagpole be first order of business and Andrew Martelli suggested committee start first with SLR as to where flagpole will be installed followed by talking to company that manufactures flagpoles. Andrew informed committee of a 2023 quote which included \$30,000 for flagpole, \$3,000 for flag and \$16,650 for installation. A new quote will be requested. If start now, there is a chance will be completed by July 4th.

MOTION by Jeff Falk to prepare items mentioned above (SLR, Flagpole) for presentation to Town Council meeting on April 14th.

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

- B. **Town Hall Memorial**: Chairman Don Falk to reach out to Jerry Barkert for official quote for additional names on plaques. This is relevant for surviving Korean and Vietnam war veterans. Estimate is \$50,000 for new plaques and installation in new Medal of Honor Plaza. This can also be paid for from grant money and should also be presented to Town Council meeting on April 14th.

In summary, approximately \$150,000 can be spent relatively soon from state grant:

1. \$50,000 for SLR designs and scope of work
2. \$50,000 for Medal of Honor plaques
3. \$50,000 for Flagpole

- C. **Barnum School**: The Navy will commission the USS *Harvey C. Barnum Jr.* on April 11th in Norfolk, Virginia. To recognize Harvey Barnum, a display will be installed to honor “Barney” at the new elementary school being constructed. In addition to a bronze plaque, committee suggested adding some of his quotes around the school so children can see on a daily basis. A site walk is planned for May 15th and the school theme will be “Farm and Field”.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Memorial Day Parade**: The theme of this year’s parade is “Cheshire Salutes 250th Anniversary” and to remember veterans that have passed. The Honorary Grand Marshall will be 10 members from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). As the Department of Public Works have 2 floats, committee will see if 1 float can be used for the DAR which

will be in Division 1. If the DAR want to be included with the Cheshire Historical Society, 250th Anniversary Committee and Cheshire Grange, will be moved to Division 3. Father Romans will be the honorary priest and Andrew Martelli will be a division commander.

- B. **Semiquincentennial Celebration**: The steering committee includes the Bennett Family, Diane Calabro and Ron Gagliardi with staff liaisons Andrew Martelli and Savannah Blantz-Maria. Events for the July 4th event can be found on the Cheshire Town Web Site.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Jeff Falk to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.

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

Attest:



John Bajor, PhD