

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD THURSDAY MAY 7, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present: Chairman Don Falk, Jeff Falk, Scott Allard, Thomas Hickey, Leslie Marinaro

Absent: Emily Trudeau, Nancy Tapp

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 7:00 P.M.

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/CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Don Falk has been receiving new plaque applications for Medal of Honor Plaza

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting held on April 2, 2026

MOTION by Jeff Falk to approve the prior meeting minutes as issued

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Bartlem Park Project Planning and Flag Pole Installation:** Bartlem Plan was presented and approved by Town Council on their April 14th meeting approving SLR planners and 60K for site work, renderings and soil composition testing. It was recognized that installation of the flagpole by July 4th may not happen due to time constraints. Now that the committee has a design engineer, best not to rush and look at other potential vendors. Unfortunately, there was an error in a press article (no fault of the committee/town) that the flagpole itself would cost 500K and committee is working on a retraction/correction.

- B. **Town Hall Memorial**: Word is getting out and applications are coming in from past veterans that graduated as Cheshire residents. Agreed to wait another month before compiling final list to allow time for more applications.
- C. **Semiquincentennial Celebration**: Andrew invited Don to attend next meeting to see what veterans can help with for July 4th event. The link for the celebration is on the Town's website. In particular, a time capsule from 1976 will be opened, there will be musical acts and recognition of the signers of the declaration.
- D. **Medal of Honor Plaza Recognition Bricks/Pavers**: Action to solicit more names for bricks for those individuals that do not qualify for plaques. Discussion on best way to obtain the bricks and etchings of names. For example, West Haven has a plaza which cost \$75 per brick wo will reach out and find out vendor they used. A word of caution, this will not happen soon as will need to move current plaza location first and will involve Public Works.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Recognition of Veterans**: On May 28th, there will be special event from 4:30-6:30 P.M. at the Town Hall to recognize Veterans. The National Anthem will be sung and Scouts and Police will attend to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and represent color guard respectively. So far, 50 veterans/citizens have replied and light refreshments will be provided.
- B. **Elim Park**: Attempts to involve veterans at Elim Park have not been successful at present. Don connected with at least 4 veterans offering transportation if needed to various events.
- C. **Memorial Day**: Town hall page has marching orders on web site for Memorial Day parade. Public Works have 2 hay wagons/trailers: One is for the honorary marshal (Daughters of the American Revolution) and the other is for the Town Council and elected officials. Suggestion that the Town Council could walk if trailer is needed for Veterans that need assistance. Leslie will reach out to band director to coordinate bugler for Taps as well as additional Fife and Drum band. Approximately 400 flags are needed for cemeteries remembering Veterans. Pat Bowman will donate 300 flags and Don will provide 100 flags.
- D. **Barnum Elementary School**: School opening is September 8th and Harvey (Barney) Barnum will be in attendance.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Don Flak to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M.

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

Attest:



John Bajor, PhD