



**Town of West Hartford
Commission on Veterans' Affairs**

February 20, 2024

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 407

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chairman Knoll called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Committee members Ingrid Bowes, Alexis Davidoff, Patrick Harrell, Matt Hart, Rolf Knoll, and John Mele were recorded as present. Wayne Rioux, LTC Maria Troy, Patricia McCoy, and Liam McCoy were in attendance as guests.

2. Public Comment – none.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2023 – Mr. Mele made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Davidoff. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports

- a. Chair – Mr. Knoll introduced this evening's guests and provided an update on his activities to prepare for the Spring Resource Fair.
- b. Secretary – none.
- c. American Legion – Mr. Farrell reported on the Legion's recent activities. He is planning to connect with the Leisure Services Department to discuss the Legion's thoughts about a memorial for Sterling Field.
- d. Other – Mr. Mele reported that he and Mr. Knoll recently visited a veteran's coffee house in Danielson (Killingly), CT. Attendance at the coffee house has increased significantly over time and the event is a popular draw for veterans in that region.

5. Business Items

- a. Status of Commission Vacancies – Mr. Knoll reported that Mr. Harrell has been appointed as a member, leaving the commission with one vacancy. Mr. Knoll introduced LTC Troy, who is potentially interested in serving.
- b. Preparations for Spring Resource Fair – Mr. Knoll reported that the Town Clerk's Office will send the invitation to the updated mailing list. The committee will target April for the mailing and will issue a press release to various publications such as WeHa.com, the West Hartford News, the Hartford Courant, and local TV stations. Mr. Hart will prepare the release and request a quote from Mayor Cantor. Mr. Hart will also ask the Town to issue the release and to publicize the event on its social media. The American Legion will sponsor the refreshments and help with setup.

- c. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – The Commission will continue its preparations for the Spring Resource Fair. At a future point, the Commission will discuss the Legion's interest in erecting a memorial monument at Sterling Field, with the permission of the Town. Mr. Hart also flagged the Town's veteran's tax benefits program as an item for future discussion.

6. Correspondence – none.

7. Adjournment – Mr. Knoll adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew W. Hart, Secretary