



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

April 16, 2024

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 407

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chairman Knoll called the meeting to order at 1900 hrs. (7:00 PM).

Committee members Inga Bowes, Alexis Davidoff, Patrick Harrell, Matt Hart, John Keleher, Rolf Knoll, and John Mele were recorded as present. Heidi Anne Mooney and Moe Fradette were also in attendance representing the American Legion.

2. Public Comment – none.
3. Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2024 – Mr. Harrell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Keleher. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Reports
 - a. Chair – Mr. Knoll provided an update on his activities to prepare for the Spring Resource Fair.
 - b. Secretary – Mr. Hart reported on his coordination with Ms. McCue to issue the press release and promote the resource fair. Mr. Hart will also send an invitation to the Town Council and state delegation.
 - c. American Legion – Ms. Mooney and Mr. Fradette reported on the Legion's recent activities. COL Michael Cabrey (Ret.) will serve as the Parade Marshal on Memorial Day and the keynote speaker for the Legion's annual youth recognition event. Among other activities, Col Cabrey serves on the Board of Directors for the CT Veterans Legal Center.
 - d. Other – none.
5. Business Items
 - a. Status of Commission Vacancies – Mr. Knoll reported that he is talking with two potential candidates to fill vacancies on the commission. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

- b. Preparations for Spring Resource Fair – Mr. Knoll provided an update on the comprehensive list of governmental and nonprofit agencies that plan to attend the fair on May 11, 2024. He and other available members will meet at 12 noon on May 10 to assist with set-up. Committee members will take turns staffing the registration table and ask each attendee to provide an email address for future communications. The committee will also poll attendees to determine their interest in a monthly coffee hour, along the lines of the [Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse](#) located in Putnam, CT.

- c. Sterling Field Memorial – Mr. Harrell discussed his recent conversations with Town staff regarding the proposed memorial. He will continue to keep the commission informed of his progress.
- 6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – The Commission will debrief the Resource Fair. At a future point, the Commission will discuss the tax benefits for veterans offered by the Town.
- 7. Correspondence – none.
- 8. Adjournment – Mr. Knoll adjourned the meeting at 1955 hrs. (7:55 PM).

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew W. Hart, Secretary