



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

June 10, 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, Rolf Knoll, and John Mele were recorded as present. Michael Bracken and Steven Gorss attended as guests.

2. Public Comment – none.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2024 – Mr. Mele made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Harrell. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports

- a. Chair – Mr. Knoll reported that the CT Veterans Legal Center would like to attend a future meeting. He also stated that there was some interest in a combined Elmwood/Newington Coffee House.
- b. American Legion – Mr. Harrell reported on the Legion's recent activities. COL Michael Cabrey (Ret.) did a great job serving as the Parade Marshal on Memorial Day and as the keynote speaker for the Legion's annual youth military inductee event. The Legion has opened the youth event to residents of other area towns and recognized 12 inductees this year.

5. Business Items

- a. Debrief Spring Resource Fair – The consensus of the members present was that the May 11 Fair was a success and worth replicating in the future. 97 veterans and 20+ guests attended, along with 30 resource personnel. The members concurred that the event could run for a shorter window, perhaps 2-3 hours.
- b. Status of Commission Vacancies – Mr. Knoll reported that Steve Gorss intends to apply to become a member. Mr. Knoll will also ask the Town Clerk's Office for an update on the status of members that have not been active.
- 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 invite West Hartford’s Director of Assessment to discuss the tax benefits for veterans offered by the Town. Mr. Hart was also tasked with asking the Town Manager for an update on the status of the new Elmwood Community Center.
7. Correspondence – none.
8. Adjournment – Mr. Knoll adjourned the meeting at 2005 hrs. (8:05 PM).

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew W. Hart, Secretary