



Town of West Hartford
Commission on Veterans' Affairs
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
7:00 PM (1900 hrs.)
West Hartford Town Hall Room 407
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 7:05 p.m.

Rolf Knoll, John Mele, Nicola Rubinow, Chad Licht, Keren Paquette, Elaine Kotler

Absent: Rachel Avenick, Jonathan Coss, Matt Hart, Patrick Harrell

In absence of quorum:

- Minutes of March 9, 2026 were not approved.
- Memorial Day Ceremony at Town Hall with Speaker Coner Tracy was discussed, as was the Military Induction Ceremony held the following evening where 5 seniors joining the military were honored with their families.
- Concept plan by the Town Engineer for improved access to Veteran's Memorial for handicap citizens including handicap parking spaces and an accessible walkway from parking lot. The final plan to be shared with the Commission in Fall 2026.

2. New Business:

- Property Tax Exemption Issue: Recent CT Legislation CGS 12-81(83) which provides Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with 100% Disability Rating went into effect October 1, 2024 for homes that they own, but the statute did not specifically say the exemption was still applicable if the dwelling was held in a trust controlled by the veteran. A 100% totally disabled West Hartford veteran has applied to the Tax Assessor's office for the exemption, but his dwelling is currently in a trust. The veteran lives in the dwelling and pays taxes on it. The Tax Assessor referred the issue to the Corporate Counsel, and asked the Commission for our opinion. One of the Commissioners pointed out that the CT Legislature rewrote the CGS 12-81 (83) legislation this year, so that the veteran will qualify for the exemption whether it's held in a trust or owned outright. The new statute will go into effect on October 1, 2026. The discussion of this issue occupied the majority of the meeting.

3. 2026 Meeting Dates:

- Tues Sep 8, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
- Tues Dec 8, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

4. . Adjournment at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mele, Secretary

