



Commission on Veterans' Affairs (WHCVA) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sep 8, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

West Hartford Town Hall Room 407

-
1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Knoll
Present: Commissioners Rolf Knoll, John Mele, Nicola Rubinow, Rachel Avenick, Patrick Harrell, Matt Hart and John Coss
Absent: Commissioner Chad Lich; Keren Paquette, West Hartford Veterans' Affairs Representative
 2. Public Comment: None.
 3. Approval Minutes of June 9, 2026 done previously by email.
 4. Old Business:
 - Veterans Memorial Access – agreement reached with Town Manager and Town Engineer to improve access for all visitors including those using wheelchairs or mobility aids, including path from adjacent parking lot and three handicap parking spaces.
 - Sterling Field update – Patrick Harrell updated status on proposed engraved bronze relief image plaque that fully displays the sacrifice of West Hartford 2Lt Serling in WWII.
 - VFW Memorial Stones – relocation project planning is needed in conjunction with WH Public Works officials to include solicitation of local construction contractors.
 - Gold Star family Property Tax Exemption – extensive discussion and consensus among Commissioners to schedule a meeting with TWH Town Manager and Town Assessor to add resident Gold Star parent(s) to the existing veterans property tax exemption.
 5. New Business:
 - Veteran Day Speaker: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Patrick Nelligan has agreed to address ceremony, to be held on Wednesday Nov 11, 2026 at the TWH Auditorium. Other Veteran Day events include Hall and Conard high school morning and afternoon events, a Veterans Breakfast at Elmwood Commun Center on Tuesday Nov 10, 2026.
 - LTC Seth Allen, USA (Ret.) – former UCONN Professor of Military Science application to be name Commissioner is before Town for approval.
 6. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mele, Secretary