

**Minutes of Somersworth Veterans Park Commission Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers  
Monday, September 30, 2019**

**Committee members present:** Martin Dumont, Chairman, Richard Michaud Vice Chairman, Bill Weners, Cathy Burns, Richard A. Gagnon, Paul Spendley, Jenne Holmes, Doreen Cole, Claudette Bayko

**Excused Committee members:** John Gregoire, Brian McKay, Eric Mommsen, Ray Doyon

**Administration present:** Robert Belmore, City Manager

The meeting was called to order at 4:28pm by Chairman Dumont, motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as written and reviewed was made by Jenne Holmes , seconded by Richard A. Gagnon, motion passed unanimously by hand vote.

Mr. Belmore presented the findings from Ironwood Landscape Architecture, Jen Martel, of the proposed memorial park site. No ledge was found, therefore the draft construction plans and details will be suitable for the site. Discussion regards to the next steps and projected dates. We need to know plans and details of final costs; pre bid meetings analysis, hope to go out to bid in January, target time line, and finalize construction by Memorial Day 2020. Hoping that the city council approves the bid by February. All being dependent on approved finances.

Chairman Dumont related that he and Mayor Hilliard signed off on 60 letters and looking into sending out another 50 fundraising letters to local businesses. Chairman Dumont has started calling the recipients of the fundraising letters and his responses have been very favorable. He thanked the City Staff for all their work, in providing mailing lists as well as phone numbers which expedited this fundraising letter project. Chairman Dumont expressed that the letters are opening the door, a picture of the proposed site included; the postage for the fundraising letters is being paid for by the Somersworth American Legion. If members want to send out letters, use the form letter, wait 7 to 10 days before calling the recipients, funds to be sent direct to City Hall. Donor's names will be listed on our City site. Chairman Dumont again stated that he really understands the burden on the city staff helping this committee, we are conscious of it and we appreciate it. Thank you notes will also be in order for donators. We also need to make an awareness of our fundraising and keep it updated.

Chairman Dumont relates the best news is we have a state budget; the Mayor is on board and sees revenue sharing a part of this project. Paul Spendley shared that with our time frame, we can't award a contract without money, and first the council will have to approve a resolution. Mr., Belmore related it must be worded in a way to reflect up to a certain amount and use the money we have raised first for the project.

If members send out a letter on their own, forward list and phone numbers and final version of the fundraising letter to Chairman Dumont.

Bill Wenners wanted to inform the committee that the NH State Chapter of Catholic War Veterans will be having a corporate Mass on Sunday, October 13 at 9AM at St. Martin Church; he invited Chairman Dumont to be a speaker at this event to inform the members of this project. Chairman Dumont accepted.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Werners, seconded by Paul Spendley, passed unanimously by hand vote. Chairman Dumont adjourned the meeting at 4:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claudette Bayko, committee member