

Minutes of Somersworth Veterans Park Commission Meeting
Executive Conference Room
Monday, June 3, 2019

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

Excused Committee members: Richard Michaud, Vice Chairman, John Gregoire

Administration present: Robert Belmore, City Manager, Dana Hilliard, Mayor

The meeting was called to order at 3:59pm by Chairman Dumont, motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as written and reviewed was made by Bill Weners, seconded by Jenne Holmes, motion passed unanimously by hand vote.

Chairman Dumont updated the financial standing of the proposed Veterans Memorial Park, at this point we have no funding; no funds from State or City. Project was sent to the Financial Committee and no action was taken at their last meeting. This Veterans Park Committee is looking to obtain at least engineering money of \$27,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Fundraising ideas were discussed, led by Chairman Dumont, he expressed his past experience with letters sent via bulk mail were not positive. He proposed with the help of staff to design a fund raising letter, producing a vision, putting teeth in it, that this is not just a park it is a **Veterans Memorial Park** and to be sent out by direct mail to businesses and tax payers of Somersworth, envelopes stuffed and prepared for mailing by committee volunteers. Bill Weners suggested that we include in the letter that credit will be given to donators in some form.

Paul Spendley suggested using publications such as Fosters about the Park, to bring interest about the project and the need for funds, include Veterans organizations and how the public will be able to purchase memorial pavers. Bob Belmore suggested putting this on the City Web site and channel 22. Mayor Hilliard will have a thermometer sign showing the fundraising gains. There was discussion of matching funds from some employers. Timing is important in regards to budget settings and requests granted. Cathy Burns and Bill Weners spoke about available money from Veterans organizations; however we need to apply for the money in order to be considered for this project.

Bob Belmore, City Manager advised and reminded the committee this project **needs** to first be approved by the City Council before this committee can move forward with any fundraising plan.

Chairman Dumont and Mayor Hilliard will present a plan to council prior to the City Council meeting on Monday, June 17, 2019, and a formal resolution will be presented at the City Council meeting to have the City in with both feet on the Somersworth Veterans Memorial Park.

Chairman Dumont set the next committee meeting for Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 4pm in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall.

Motion for adjournment made by Cathy Burns, seconded by Jenne Holmes, meeting adjourned at 4:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudette Bayko, committee member