

Trustees of War Memorials Meeting Minutes
Day, Date and Time: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6pm
Place of Meeting: City Hall Auditorium, 62 Friend St.

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call – Mayor Gove called to order at 6:02pm.
Present: Mayor Kassandra Gove, Paul Cote, James DeMars, Paul Jancewicz (Jancy)
Absent:, Tom Champion, Ski Iworsky

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gove read mission: The "Board," shall have charge and control of the construction of any memorial in Amesbury commemorating the services and sacrifices of soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who are veterans of war, or persons who have rendered military service for the commonwealth in time of war, and the Board shall have custody and care of such memorials after their construction.

3. Public Comment

Aiden Cusick of 7 Beacon Street brought forth public comment and provided to the board an Eagle Scout Project Proposal, for benches to be built and installed at the Sumner Goldsmith Park. Aiden is a member of Troop 4 and has lived in Amesbury his whole life, he wants to give back to the community and plans to fundraise, build and install three benches in the Sumner Goldsmith Park. The handout provided outlined the proposal, timeline and cost of building benches for the park. Aiden mentioned that he could put the Board's names on the benches if desired. Aiden's troop leader and parents were also present for this comment.

Responses to public comment:

- James suggested that if any plaque or engravings on the benches should reference this being a donation by the boy scout troop and need not include the board members' names.
- Both Paul and James let Aiden know that they would be willing to help with the assembly and prep of cleanup of the area to help facilitate this project.
- Paul asked about the excess funds, if raised, and who would be named as the beneficiary of any excess funds, Aiden's troop leader indicated that they will be naming the Trustees as the beneficiaries of this project (in accordance with Scout requirements), and that any funds raised beyond the cost of their project will be donated to the Trustees.
- Mayor Gove stated that we will add this to the next meeting to vote on placement and in the meantime the board seemed to have a very positive response to the project so it sounds like we just need to move to get it on the next agenda. She also plans to connect Aiden with DPW to confirm the placement of the benches so there is no negative impact to either the landscaping or snow removal operations, seasonally.

4. Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2025 Meeting

- Motion to approve minutes as presented by Jancy
- Seconded by Paul
- **Unanimous approval 4-0**

5. Financials – presented by Mayor Gove

- There has been an increase in earned interest (no new deposits) in the Trust Fund account and no change in the RESTOR account.
- Trust Fund as of 5/31/25 has a principal \$3,000 with \$15,071.81 interest. Current Balance: \$18,071.80. This fund is to be used for the care of the Soldiers' Memorials (WWII, Korea

and Vietnam) that were moved to Justin Park.

- RESTOR: Current Balance: \$20,625.15, thanks to a \$5,000 Grant Award received. This Fund is to be used for the care and restoration of all City War Memorials, and the \$5,000 grant is for the Rocky Hill Memorial specifically.

6. Veterans' Heritage Grant Program

- Paul shared that on 6/14/25 the Board rededicated the Rocky Hill Memorial flagpole with the VFW present. They added a solar powered light to the top of the flagpole. Paul thanked the mayor for her time weeding the bricks. This project began last September with the application of the grant and the Rocky Hill Memorial flagpole has now been completed.
- The grant accepts volunteer hours as a matching in-kind donation, which can be applied towards the \$5,000 match. Those hours can be estimated between \$36-\$40/hour and our volunteer hours total has so far reached 93 hours. We need to calculate the entire number of hours and assign dollar amounts to that to know if we've fully spent this grant.
- Mayor Gove read to the group the invoice from Proforma in the amount of \$6265 for the flagpole. \$5,000 of this can be paid for with the grant funds which were deposited into the city's account already. There is a need to pay the remaining \$1265.
 - i. Jim made a motion to pay the \$1265 of the Proforma invoice from the Trustee's Trust account
 - ii. Jancy seconded the motion
 - iii. **Unanimous approval 4-0**

7. Maintenance Updates/Additional Needs

- Jancy reported that the majority of the actual plaques he believes are in decent shape, it's the Franco American Memorial that is the exception.
- Mayor Gove asked for him to bring records that he has pertaining to the restoration dates, so that we can maintain that information and use it to guide what the board decides needs restoration next.

8. Franco-American Memorial

- Jancy provided discussion on whether the monument needs to be winterized or not. After the memorial was restored, it seems conflicting on whether it needs to be winterized, as there had been complaints and others had heard differently. Jancy said he would speak with Lou Bartley to confirm what we should be doing.
- Paul provided contact info for a quote for the washing, repainting and flagpole top, bringing it back to a good condition. This vendor doesn't believe that the pole needs replacement, and Jancy said the group would prefer to have it restored from a cost perspective. Paul said he might also want to trim some of the tree branches so the flag doesn't hit them.
- Mayor Gove asked if we can use the grant matching funds for other memorials, and so she is requesting that we go back to the grantor to confirm if we can apply our volunteer hours/ items to an additional project.

9. Set next meeting date: Tuesday, July 8th for a brief vote/meeting at 6:30pm at City Hall Auditorium

10. Adjourn- 6:52pm

Motion to adjourn Paul Cote
Second Paul Jancewicz (Jancy)
Unanimous approval

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Feger, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Created on: 6/24/2025

Approved on: 9/30/2025