

Trustees of War Memorials Meeting Minutes

Day, Date and Time: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6pm

Place of Meeting: City Hall Auditorium, 62 Friend St.

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call – Mayor Gove called to order at 6:04pm.
Present: Mayor Cassandra Gove, Paul Cote, Ski Iworsky, Paul Jancewicz (Jancy), Tom Champion (arrived at 6:10)
Absent: James DeMars

2. Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence

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
There were no members of the public present for comment

4. Approval of Minutes - January 14, 2025 Meeting
 - Motion to approve minutes as presented by Jancy
 - Seconded by Ski
 - Unanimous approval 4-0

5. Financials – presented by Victoria
 - There have been no changes to the financials since the January 14, 2025 meeting.
 - Trust Fund (principal \$3,000 with \$14,758.33 interest)- Current Balance: \$17,758.33. 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
 - Mayor Gove discussed the grant, we received \$5,000 which we have to match with either volunteer hours or funds out of our trust for the same amount. This grant is for the Rocky Hill Memorial. We next need to secure a vendor – we do not have to use who gave us the quote, but we can go with them if the group feels that is best.
 - Jancy thanked Paul and Tom for their work on securing the grant award and providing a bit of a buffer to the funds that we already have. This will help us to make necessary upgrades without depleting too much of our reserve, which could ideally be saved for future damage or major renovation needs.
 - Paul said he would speak with Flag ProForma, who had previously reached out to discuss doing this work. If the work is under \$10,000, Mayor Gove stated that we can move forward with the project without any other approvals needed. Paul has a quote for the Rocky Hill Memorial but hasn't heard back from them about scheduling.
 - Tom suggested we look at replacing the pole, since with the grant we have the funds to, rather than just repaint for \$4,000, which will not be of long-term benefit. Tom is willing to be the point of contact to move forward with turning this quote into a project we can move

forward with.

- Jancy can reach out to Lou Bartley to if he is interested in ad hoc projects (either paid or pro-bono) and to invite him to another meeting.
- Mayor Gove mentioned that we could apply for this grant again with the next pole, after we use this one as a learning experience.

7. Maintenance Updates/Additional Needs

- Flagpole Stewardship Program
 - Mayor Gove discussed that this has been challenging to manage because of the timing of when flag notifications come and discussed the need for a collective meeting with the prospective volunteers and what the time/availability commitment means. She also discussed the logistical hang-ups, including checking out of keys, what happens when alerts happen off-hours, etc.
 - Jancy questioned could we make multiple keys and give them to the volunteers, vs checking out and returning keys. Mayor Gove mentioned that the keys could be figured out, but that is a potential solution.
 - Discussed the local involvement of people who want to be stewards – we have received a handful of applications – and that we will circle back to getting this up and running.
- Monument Restoration – presented by Paul
 - Peter Rossi of PR Monuments did a tour of memorials with Paul Cote and quotes were provided for multiple memorials, which are listed below:
 - Rocky Hill Honor Roll WWII plaque and Mounting Post plaque
 - \$3,467 includes cleaning, restoration and refinishing of the plaque and cleaning of the mounting plaque.
 - Highlands District Honor Roll
 - \$789 includes cleaning the memorial and plaque
 - Cannon at Cemetery
 - \$4870 (this one is not under our purview, it is the Cemetery Commission)
 - Doughboy Monument
 - \$500-\$750 for a professional estimate, the scope is outside of what PR can do
 - Bartlett Monument
 - \$500-\$750 for a professional estimate, the scope is outside of what PR can do (this one is not under our purview, it is possibly the Amesbury Improvement Association)
 - Korea, WWII Vietnam Monument
 - \$500-\$750 for a professional estimate, the scope is outside of what PR can do
 - This memorial in particular is a labor-intensive job that the contractor can't recommend how long it would take to restore and clean it
- Mayor Gove said that when deciding what memorials to restore, it would be helpful to know when memorials were previously restored/professional cleaned. Jancy and Ski believe they have some of these records regarding previous cleanings/restorations and can report back.
- Jancy mentioned that future monuments should possibly be engraved stone instead of metal plaques as it relates to a lower cost for the care and maintenance going forward

8. Franco-American Memorial Winterization

- A Bartley relative reached out during the winter to express concern that the rocket launcher went through without being winterized. Mayor Gove would like us to make sure we get this covered at the end of the fall for the winter.
- Ski was under the impression that Bartley would winterize it and bill us annually, however that does not seem to be the case.
- Jancy removed the winterization (in the month of May) a few years back, without realizing it was a reusable material.
- It is otherwise in great shape and we would like to see it maintained and winterized
- It was shrink-wrapped like a boat – Paul will ask Josh Ballon to get a price, so we know how much and to get it scheduled. The group consensus is to have it wrapped preferably after Veterans Day.

9. Purple Heart City Design

- Event Ideas: Mayor Gove suggested that we continue this at the next meeting with Jeremiah (not present) – but that the current plan is we are trying to wrap it into the Veteran's luncheon. That is typically held the week prior to Veterans Day.

10. Set next meeting date: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6pm at City Hall Auditorium

11. 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: 4/22/2025

Approved on: 6/24/2025