



THE AMERICAN LEGION
JEFFERY S. HOLMES POST 84

September 7, 2023
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting convened at 1800 hours by Commander Dennis Brown.

Roll call by Sergeant-at-Arms Sam Zucker. Present were: Commander and Judge Advocate Dennis Brown, First Vice Commander and Historian Howard Bixby, Second Vice Commander Penny Johnson, Adjutant and Finance Officer Scott Holmes, Chaplain Luther Johnson, past Commander Charles Patch and members Bill Brown and Dale Pushee. Visiting guest was Patti Holmes.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the August 3rd meeting were read by Sergeant-at-Arms Sam Zucker. Motion to accept by Charles Patch and seconded by Penny Johnson. Approved with the minor correction of the spelling of Dale's last name.

Finance Report:

1. Finance Officer Scott Holmes reported that we have \$15,892.78 in the bank.
2. Golf tournament fees and some dues have been deposited.

3. Paid \$355.00 for liability insurance. Scott noted that this amount will be yearly and we will have to adjust our budget for 2024 accordingly.
4. Officer's insurance in the amount of \$192.00 was also paid. Scott said that this amount covers 3 years.
5. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

Service Report: None

Membership:

1. We have 23 paid up members for fiscal year 2023-24. Our goal is 40 members by the end of June 2024.
2. A former member, Dale Pushee, has been reinstated.
3. There is ongoing membership recruitment.

Americanism:

1. Scott Holmes reported that new Flag pole at the Maple Street Cemetery is still awaiting lighting.
2. Commander Brown has been in contact with Selectboard member Lannie Collins and Parks and Recreation Director Scott Hausler concerning the Hero Banners Project. The question of which poles to mount the banners has not been decided. Adjutant Scott Holmes has given Lannie Collins the State information if the banners will be installed on the same poles as our Flag display along Route 5.

Children and Youth:

1. Athletics – Since Randolph does not have a team, a request was made by a parent if their son could play for our team. Scott gave them contact information for Coach Dylan Spencer for the procedures to comply with American Legion Rules.
2. Boys and Girls State Program – Charlie Patch mentioned that we did not have any representatives this past year. He thinks by the time we are notified by the State that the schools have already received the announcement. He will contact Dave Cobb and ask that we are given notification at the same time so we can coordinate our efforts.
3. Bill Brown restated (see December meeting minutes) that he does volunteer work with the youth (mostly teens) of our community and wants to know how to report those hours for our consolidated report. Adjutant Scott Holmes told Bill to keep a record of his hours and submit them to him by May 1st.
4. A motion was made by Bill Brown and Seconded by Luther Johnson to have Ben Gardner, assistant principal at Hartford High School, to speak at our next meeting on the subject of mentoring or volunteering to help our teens. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business:

1. At the Vet Council meeting of September 6th, Commander Dennis Brown, Adjutant Scott Holmes and First Vice Commander Howard Bixby were in attendance.

2. Howard commented that the Vet Council has pledged \$500 toward the WWI/WWII monument.
3. For Veteran's Day, November 11, 2023, ceremonies will start at 10:30 AM at the Maple Street Cemetery and then proceed to the Town Hall and Veterans Park.
4. Next Vet Council meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.
5. A motion was made by Scott Holmes and seconded by Dale Pushee to have Sam Zucker submit the down payment of \$267.50 to Leisure Time Computers. Sam will then discuss with their representative, Christy, which of the allowed 10 pages we will have on our web site. When a draft of the site is ready, Commander Brown and Adjutant Holmes will be asked to review and comment for corrections and/or changes. Motion approved unanimously.
6. Golf
 - a. Charlie Patch has sent an e-mail to Jeff Barry at Montague to confirm that the course is in good shape and that the morning and afternoon food menus are set.
 - b. Scott reported that we have 31-hole sponsors.
 - c. Charlie has contacted Stevie Hillard and she will make a donation in memory of Dan.
 - d. Luther has confirmed that he will be the watchman for the hole-in-one contest.
 - e. A miniature wooden golf cart has been donated as a prize by Clover Leaf.
7. Commander Brown discussed American Legion Family Day. Should we hold it in April, as proposed by National, or another day during the summer? A suggestion was made to hold it at Maxfield Complex when our baseball team has a home game, probably in July.

8. WWI/WWII Monument News (see Appendix A)

New Business:

1. Special thanks from Commander Brown went to:
 - a. Sam Zucker for recording our meeting minutes and promoting our golf tournament on the Hartford and Upper Valley List Serves.
 - b. Charlie Patch for chairing our golf committee.
 - c. Mary Kay Brown's continuing efforts on WWI/WWII monument project (see Appendix A).

The meeting adjourned at 1918 hours.

Sam Zucker, Sergeant-at-Arms for Scott Holmes, Adjutant

Next meeting, Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM, at WRJ VA, Freedom Building (formally Building 44), Room 103a.

Appendix A

Last month Mary Kay (MK) Brown nearly secured a 'Better Places' State of Vermont grant which will provide a 2 to 1 match of donations for the Monument Project. Although this isn't official yet, she has been assured that it will happen. This will likely come through in October or November. The duration of this fund-raising effort will go on for about 4 to 6 weeks and cannot exceed 8 weeks. Could it make sense for the post to donate the gift during that time frame and have that donation automatically grow from 1,000 to 3,000? In addition to all the other donations received so far, Lowery's Property Maintenance has offered to do the site work. Schall Electric may provide the electrical work, more to come on that. She has contacted Clint Potter to see if he's interested in helping with the concrete work for its foundation. She's trying to get the site work done this fall and have the monument built during the winter or early spring. MK is gathering a list of who could be invited to the unveiling, which she's hoping to do next Memorial Day. She's thinking about inviting Former Governor Jim Douglas (he was present and spoke when Veteran's Park was opened), Governor Scott, Senators Peter Welch and Bernie Sanders, Representative Becca Balint, other state officials and our new town manager, John Haverstock. Also, major donors Dorothy Byrne and Mascoma Bank and select board members, town staffers that assisted her, veterans' groups, the VA Director as well as military leaders from the National Guard.

