

**Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes - Monday - June 13, 2022**

White Deer Park Nature Center

A) Attendees:

- Committee Mbrs: Jeff Hicks (Chairman), Open (Vice Chrm), Willis McCoy, Matt Pedone, Duane Tabb, Helen Carter (Secretary), Rosemary Rochford, John Foster, Garner Town Mayor (absent)
- Town Staff: Katie Lockhart, Kayla Phillips (Events Coordinator), Matt Pedone
- Ex-officio Members:
  - VFW - Bob Carter
  - AL - Jeff Hicks, Terry Chatfield (absent), Don Searles
  - DAV - Robert Gregory (absent), Willis McKoy
  - Town Representative - Phil Matthews - Spence Cardwell (absent)
- Maintenance of the Memorial: Katie Lockhart
- Visitors: Tim Stevens

B) Elections: Due to the limitation on the term of offices, Jeff could not be re-elected to the Committee. Willis has one more year left on his second 3 yr. term. Elections were held with the following results: Matt Pedone - President, John Foster – Vice President, Helen Carter – Secretary. Katie is working on a listing of all Committee members, including the beginning and end of their term of office.

C) Report from Committees:

a. Observances:

- **The Wall That Heals**, Mar 29-Apr 3, 2022 – Tim Stevens, gave report
  - Set a record for the most people there on set-up day
  - We were first to have a Walk-to-the-Wall of Vietnam Vets – the Wall staff wants to do it at other locations.
  - Had about 10,000 people come
  - We were first to have shows on TV ahead of time. Working on another video on the actual event. Should be done by September.
  - Looking to put up a bench or a marker at the park commemorating the event – item and location to be determined.
  - We did have individual people that came in the middle of the night.
  - We only had 1 school group, but had the largest number of non-school group people. 950 people took tours.
  - Volunteers did not leave after their shift ended, and they showed up even in the rain in the middle of the night.
  - Katie thanked Tim on behalf of the town for his efforts.
  - Tim's video won 3 Telly awards: Gold for historic content, Bronze for documentary, and Silver for the music.
  - Lesson learned: We had a night watch, but they were not trained in finding specific names in the book.
  - Facilities people were great.
  - Financials came out ok
  - Willis suggested that we need to do something for the ROTC volunteers from

UNC and Carolina. Members of the Legion and VFW can request awards to be given to individuals for things like this. The ROTC units would write up the blurb and tell us who will be getting them, and then we order and present the awards at their ceremony. These are individual awards, but we can give it to multiple people.

- Where to put the bench and plaque to call attention to the Wall visit?  
Discussion of near the monument, but not in it.

- 
- **Salute to the Troops** – Tim Stevens
  - We did not do Salute to the Troops this year due the Wall
  - Tim trying to get an event for Sept 11 instead. Looking at a concert at the church but cannot book military units until 6 weeks out.
- **Memorial Day** - May 30, 2022 – Katie reported
  - Had about 175 people
  - Mayor was presented with official Purple Heart City sign and proclamation
  - Need to find location for this sign
- **Independence Day** - Jul 3, 2022 – Kayla reported
  - Booth/Tours at the Memorial from 1700-1930
  - Town to provide tents, chairs, water
  - VFW & Legion members need passes to get on to Tim's street for parking
- **Veterans Day** - Nov 11, 2022 - Katie reported
  - Tim working on speaker – Marine colonel
  - Tours 1000-1300 at GVM
  - Person contacted Katie about her family who had 4 or 5 members who served in WW II and it was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their enlistment. Since they all survived, Veterans Day would be more appropriate to recognize them rather than Memorial Day. Not sure if any of them are still alive.
  - Kayla will draft up the program for review at our next meeting in Sept
  - Veterans (VFW& Legion) will give out flyers and flags at the church
- **Gold Star Families Day** - Dec 17, 2022 1000 hrs – Tim Stevens
  - The wreaths get wilted if we put them up too early (like coordinating with Wraths Across America). So, looking at 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday
  - Wreaths Across America is Dec 11, so we can do ours on Dec 17
  - Need to recognize the addition of the new name on the wall – maybe having the family come to the event.
  - How many wreaths to use? Live or silk? The artificial wreaths can be re-used and stored at Tim's house. The VFW and Legion and others groups can each donate one of the 5 wreaths, and they should match.
  - The Legion or VFW will order them all so they look alike. Jeff and Bob will coordinate.

b. **Tours at Veterans Memorial** - (Matt, Katie, Spence)

c. **Changes/Maintenance of Memorial** (Matt, Katie, Charles) - Katie

- New name (67<sup>th</sup>) for wall OIF, Sgt Courtney T Johnson, USA - installed
- Sales and installation of Bricks – Order deadline is July 31, 2022
- Update the book with new names. Katie will send email asking for updates prior to July 31.
- Discussion of installing a bench or marker for the wall visit. Off to the side where

you can see the flag, but not part of the monument. Put plaque on the bench. Tim will pay for one bench (\$700), others to donate the others. All this needs to be approved by the Town.

- Discussion of soldiers who died here, while in the service.

**D) Reports from Local Veterans Organizations**

- VFW, Aux – Bob rode in motorcycle ride to the wall. Nothing else.
- AL, SAL, Riders, Aux – Jeff had nothing to report
- DAV – Willis Reported they that Robert Gregory has moved to a different chapter and so the new Commander will appoint a new representative.

**E) Old Business:**

- Banner flags of veterans hung from light poles. Helen didn't bring the info this meeting, and will bring it next time.

**F) New Business:**

- Garner now has our Purple Heart City designation – John Foster
  - Town has it on their list to publicize this on town entry points
  - Do we want to do something for the Purple Heart recipients in the Town?
  - We don't currently have a chapter of the MOPH here in Garner.
  - Wake Forest does a flag raising each month and presents old one to a Purple Heart family. If we did something similar, it should be at the Memorial.
  - He suggested we visit Wake Forest for one of their ceremonies on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month. Next month will be on July 11, (because of Independence Day) leaving Garner Town Hall at 10:00 <sup>AM</sup>.
  - We need more research
  - Where would we do it? There are a few flag poles around Garner now.
- Badges for the new member of the Committee. Which format Town Committee or a Vets Memorial Guide? The Town Committee badge.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30. Next meeting on Sept 12, 2022, 09:00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month (every third month), White Deer Park Nature Center