

Town of Hope Mills
Veterans Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 1800 by Grilley Mitchell.

2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call:

Members

Grilley Mitchell
Meghan Freeman
Jim Blevins
Jim Morris
Bill Greene
Ron Maury
John Cook

Guests

Sue Moody
Joanne Scarola
Elizabeth Blevins
Candace Wade
Harley
Denise Hernandez

Not present: Jesse Bellflowers, Elizabeth Cooper, Clinton Murray, Al Ferri & Greg Dickerson.

4. Agenda was approved as written.

5. Meeting minutes from the October 24, 2019, meeting were previously approved prior to the winter break.

6. Old Business:

a. Update on the Veterans Memorial Repairs. **(Open)**

i. Bruce & Don trying to get Jim Clarks records. Businesses will not provide bids without first seeing previous records.

ii. Bill Greene has tried to gain access and is working with Mrs. Jean in order to sort through Jim's file cabinets of records.

iii. There is a business in Greensboro willing to come out to look at the monument and provide recommendations.

b. Hero's Homecoming: **(Closed)**

i. Highly successful across Cumberland County.

ii. Highlights include:

A. Dirtbag Ale created "Homecoming Pilsner".

B. 4 county municipalities participated.

C. There were 22 events hosted by 31 organizations.

D. 168 Missing Man kits were setup around the county.

E. 2,300 "Thank You" signs were passed out at the parade.

F. 10,000 calendar brochures distributed across the county.

G. Kick off meeting for Heroes Homecoming 8 will be April 3d.

H. Veterans Day parade will be on Saturday, November 7.

I. Heroes Homecoming remembrances will be November 5 – 11.

J. Video will be available on Fayetteville Tourism website.

K. Theme for next year is "Fierce Female".

L. Big event at Rick's Place at local American Ninja obstacle course. More to follow.

M. Try to identify if anyone in town served in one of the following organizations:

Women's Army Corps (WAC); Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP); Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES); Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

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c. Artillery piece painting – Bill Greene is working. The person who does the painting has come back but left again. Hopefully have it painted by Memorial Day. John Cook may have a person who can paint it as part of a Scouting project. **(Open)**

7. New Business:

a. Vote for new Chair persons tabled until next month when all of the new members officially come on board. Need by-laws with rules of attendance. **(Open)**

b. Veterans Outreach. May 1 is the tentative date. Possibly host at the Recreation Center. How many assisted living centers in Hope Mills? What about Care Givers? Pitch event at an upcoming Chamber Luncheon. **(Open)**

c. Memorial Day 2020 & 2021. Tabled for vote with new members. Maybe get the travelling Vietnam Wall for 2021. Need to schedule park clean-up and restoration for some of the items in the park. Plan for purchasing benches? **(Open)**

d. Fundraisers to offset costs. Need ideas for future events and expenditures to include monument repairs. **(Open)**

e. Help Lone Survivor Foundation. Grand opening tentatively scheduled for April. Need to find ways to help and visit the location. Put link for Amazon shopping list on our FaceBook page. **(Open)**

f. Application and names on the monument. Needs to be reworked and a process for submitting it developed. We should grandfather in the 5 names that we've already announced. What should the residency requirement be? How should money be handled? **(Open)**

g. Conduct inspection of military related items in our town. Cemeteries, memorials, etc. Need to identify and develop a plan. **(Open)**

8. Around the table:

a. Jim Morris e-mailed several attachments with different items for review and consideration for the upcoming committee.

b. Elizabeth Blevins said the town Historic Committee also working on items for the Nations 250th anniversary in 2026.

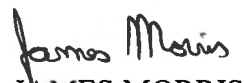
c. Denise Hernandez, Army Veteran and Social Worker. Works for a non-profit looking for ways to engage the local Veteran Community.

d. February 8, 2020, fund raiser for Harvey Stuart at Post 670. Music and Food. \$8 entry.

9. Next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2020, at 1800.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 1909.


GRILLEY MITCHELL
Chairman


JAMES MORRIS
Secretary