



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present: Chair: John Clarke
Vice-Chair: Harry McEwen
Members: David Steckham, Bob Fyfe, Bill Eisan, Art Tompkins,
Councillor Merulla, Councillor Morelli

**Absent with
Regrets:** Gerry Rattray

Also Present: Fern Viola, Veterans Affairs Canada Liaison
Anna Bradford, Director of Culture
Rebecca Oliphant, Technical Staff Liaison, Minute Taker, Culture
Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS – Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA

At the request of the Chair the Agenda for January 10, 2012 meeting of the Hamilton Veterans Committee will deal first and foremost with the issue of Veterans and Citizenship – please see Item 4.1.

The remainder of the Agenda will be deferred to the February meeting unless there is time after Item 4.1 is completed.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 (Fyfe/Eisan)

Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 08 November 2011.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Veterans and Citizenship (Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee)

What is the definition of a Veteran for the purposes of the Hamilton Veterans Committee? The Hamilton Veteran Committee definition of a Veteran requires further discussion in order to move forward for the future.

Motion passed at November 8, 2011 meeting of the Hamilton Veterans Committee –

(Merulla/Morelli)

That any former member of the Commonwealth (Allied?) Forces who releases with an honourable discharge is eligible to be a member of the Hamilton Veterans Committee.

CARRIED

Proposal from David Steckham – attach to minutes

Discussion: Would this proposal be circumventing Department of Veterans Affairs?

If it is the agreement of the committee that the criteria for membership and the mandate of the Hamilton Veterans Committee be changed a report from the committee would need to go to Emergency & Community Services. A facilitator would be brought in to assist the membership to develop criteria and mandate.

Need to decide what this committee is doing. Members hoped that in joining this committee we would be broadening the involvement of the committee in municipal veterans and other military issues. Will be more effective as a committee, if we have the information about issues affecting military as well as veterans.

Fyfe/Tompkins

That David Steckham be the liaison with staff to develop a process to determine role the Hamilton Veterans Committee should be fulfilling for the City of Hamilton.

CARRIED

4.2 World War I Artillery pieces – discussion on location of restored pieces

Update: waiting for written approval from the Dieppe Memorial Committee to confirm the location for restored artillery pieces.

Gerry Rattray contacted Colonel Forsyth, letter of approval will be sent to Marie MacEachern's attention.

Jack MacFarland – wants to apply to have those that survived on the monument. This is an RHLI issue not a Hamilton Veterans Committee issue.

4.3 Queen's Jubilee Medal

An article appeared in today's (Jan 10) Spectator stating there were significant funds available for commemorative medals. Expectation is that information will be forthcoming on obtaining one of the medals.

4.4 Freedom of the City – Recommendation report

Update: Staff will provide a draft report for committee review at a future meeting.

4.5 Calendar of Veteran's Events (Invitations/Advertising of Veterans Events)

Update: Need to strike a Calendar Sub-committee as directed at November 8, 2011 meeting of the Hamilton Veterans Committee. Dave provided a new draft of the calendar. Royal Canadian Legion wants to see the final draft before approval to use the poppy is given. Dave asked everyone to go back to organizations for calendar of events. He would like those who have contacts will ask the info be sent to him rather than him having to pick it up.

Councillor Morelli suggested we need to make it easier for organizations to get information to us. Use existing mailing list to get info. Rebecca to ask Marie for her list.

Anna stated we may have access to more resources after our transition to Planning and Economic Development.

4.6 Veterans Parking in Hamilton

No update.

4.7 Dress Code at Citizenship Events

Draft letter was read.

(Eisan/Tompkins)

That the letter to the Ministry of Citizenship regarding proper dress at Citizenship ceremonies be sent by John as a private citizen.

CARRIED

4.8 Recognition Events for Fallen Hamilton Military Personnel

Need to draft a request under the Chair's signature requesting that the Hamilton Veterans Committee staff liaison be notified when these types of recognition events are received by the Mayor's or Councillor's offices to allow the Hamilton Veterans Committee to show their respect.

4.9 2013 Smiths Knoll Remembrance Ceremony

Update: Art Tompkins

President of Stoney Creek branch is attending a meeting of Stoney Creek Historical Society. Art hopes to have an update for next Veterans committee meeting.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 Smith's Knoll - Stoney Creek re-internment

The bones are currently at Mac for investigation. There will be a ceremony when they are re-interned. Americans want to have an honour guard.

5.2 Upcoming Events

Nov 4 in house service at Branch 58

Sunday, Nov 11 – both ceremonies, if it is a garrison parade the regiment does the piping and bugling

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Military Consultant

Councillors explained they have no involvement in hiring or purpose of the staff in the Mayor's office. It is understood the Mayor has added this position with all good intentions. Mayor has said publicly there are "a number of significant Military events this year" so perhaps that will be Colonel Elms' focus. Colonel Elms may attend HVC meetings on behalf of Mayor but will not be a member of this committee.

Invite Mayor to future HVC meeting to clarify his expectations of the Military Consultant.

Bob reported that Colonel Elms attended the United Council of Veterans November banquet as guest speaker on the Mayor's behalf. He was a good guest speaker and designate for the Mayor.

6.2 Cancellation of Remembrance Day Service in Federal Building Lobby

(Fyfe/Eisan)

That the draft letter to the Federal Government be forwarded to Emergency & Community Services for approval to send.

CARRIED

Discussion: Councillors will speak to letter and reasons at E&CS
Need to be more upfront and more specific with the strong disappointment that the Remembrance Day Service in the lobby of the Federal government building was cancelled, ask Council to endorse the concern with the letter and direct it to to MPs, MPPs, and both Provincial and Federal gov'ts.

Rebecca to make Councillor Morelli's suggested changes to the draft, send to Councillor and Dave for final changes. Report to go with letter to be prepared for next possible E&CS agenda.

6.3 November 11, 2011 – What went wrong?

Bob reported it was a total screw-up. He was waiting to bugle, then a piper started. After that, everything was out of sequence. Piper explained he was sent from the armouries. Bob confirmed with pipe major that he

thought the commanding officer sends a piper every year. We need to ensure they know that the Hamilton Veterans Committee has their own piper for November 11. Councillor Morelli asked that a letter be sent to the armouries from this committee ensuring they know the process. Committee needs to stay on top of this so it does not happen again. Dave shared his observation about organization at armouries and suggested it should be addressed in particularly the order of March. Bob would like a letter from this committee to all organizations involved stating "this is the way it is" as part of the event organization in future. In future, ensure the current year is on every schedule and date each version so that everyone is working from the correct version.

PA system was excellent.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: 14 February 2012
 10:00 a.m. to Noon
 City Hall – Room 192

Significant Veterans Anniversaries (Please provide any additions you may be aware of to this list.)

2012 - RHLI, Dieppe (August 19, 2012), Queen's 60th Jubilee
2013 - 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek,
2014 - 100th Anniversary of the beginning of WWI
 - 70th of D Day
2015 -

Should be looking at dates, investigating, asking if HVC can be of assistance