



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present: Chair: Harry McEwen
Members: Gerry Rattray, David Steckham, Art Tompkins, Bill Eisan, Bob Fyfe

Absent with Regrets: Councillors Morelli, Merulla

Also Present: Anna Bradford, Acting Director-Tourism and Culture
Crystabelle Fobler, Cemeteries Administrative Supervisor
Peter Christie, Superintendent of Cemeteries
Wally Omiotek, Supervisor of Cemeteries
Rebecca Oliphant, Technical Staff Liaison, Minute Taker, Tourism & Culture Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS –.

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA**
Item 4.9 Fields of Honour move to the beginning of the Agenda to accommodate staff schedules.
Add: Elections under Item 4.1 – Anna Bradford
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
None declared.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
(Rattray/Eisan)
3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 12 June 2012.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee

Election:

Chair: Harry McEwen, currently Vice-Chair agreed to stand as Chair.

Vice-Chair: David Steckham nominated Bob Fyfe. Bob agreed to stand.

CARRIED

4.2 World War I Artillery pieces

Update: Anna spoke to Parks staff regarding locating the artillery pieces at Dieppe Memorial. They expressed concern for vandalism and public safety. Parks staff as well as conservation staff would prefer a less isolated location with some type of enclosure or ideally an indoor location. Committee inquired if there is an empty building in the City where the pieces could be displayed.

At the June meeting Geordie Elms suggested the possibility of including the artillery pieces in a legacy project to mark the 100th anniversary of the War in 2014.

At a previous meeting Councillor Morelli mentioned there might be the possibility of something at the renovated Ivor Wynne stadium.

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

No update for calendar. David can send what he has so far to Geordie Elms in order for the information to be disseminated more fully.

Rebecca is working with Information Services to have the Hamilton Veterans Committee web page created. The calendar can be posted on the web page in PDF format.

4.4 Veterans Parking in Hamilton

Update: Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance, will attend the September 11, 2012 meeting.

4.5 Queen's Jubilee Medal Nomination – Bill McCulloch

Update: Dave is working with Nick Westoll in Councillor Morelli's office on history and background for nomination. Rebecca to contact Clerks to determine if they are able to assist.

4.6 Dieppe Memorial Remembrance Event – Sunday, August 19, 2012

Planning meeting on July 19 at RHLI hall. Gerry and Marie MacEachern will attend.

4.7 East Hamilton Decoration Day – Sunday, August 26

Art questioned if there was an opportunity for Stoney Creek Branch 622 to alternate hosting this event in a Stoney Creek cemetery in future years.

Concern is there is no military monument in a Stoney Creek cemetery to be used as a gathering point.

4.8 Hamilton and Scourge Memorial – Saturday, September 21, 2012

Mike McAllister will ensure the Hamilton Veterans Committee is given information in an acceptable timeframe.

4.9 **Fields of Honour**

Guests: Crystabelle Fobler, Cemeteries Administrative Supervisor, Peter Christie, Superintendent of Cemeteries, Wally Omiotek, Supervisor of Cemeteries

Discussion regarding revised criteria for burial in the Fields of Honour at Woodland Cemetery.

Background / Why the review now?

The understanding is that the Fields of Honour were created for those who wished to have a place to go and remember. Originally based on World War I and II veterans.

Cemetery staff are receiving an increased number of inquiries requesting an expanded eligibility. There are no space issues at this time. The lower field is full but there are between 300 and 400 graves available in upper field. Also, cemetery staff are looking at opening a Field of Honour at Mount Hamilton Cemetery. The issue is strictly criteria.

The committee has an issue with limiting eligibility to campaigns as they feel Afghanistan veterans should be included. Would like to see a criteria that opens eligibility to a wider field. The easiest criteria to administer – persons are eligible for burial in the Field of Honour if they did serve and were honourably discharged or are actively serving, includes regular service and militia.

The majority want it to remain strictly military.

Should spouses be eligible for burial in the Field of Honour if they are not military? The No decision was unanimous.

Hard question – if they are Canadian citizens but served in a non-Commonwealth military should they be eligible for burial in the Field of Honour.

Suggestion – those non-Commonwealth military be buried in an area of the new Field of Honour being considered at Mount Hamilton Cemetery. It is important that these graves be marked in the same respectful manner.

Action: Crystabelle will investigate what other municipalities do. She will also contact Veterans Affairs Ottawa to determine if they have any criteria regarding non-Commonwealth military.

To date we do not have any requests for non-Commonwealth military to be buried in the Field of Honour.

Currently there are only 4 or 5 burials in the Fields of Honour each year. The paperwork is forwarded to Carolyn Biggs, Legislative Assistant, Clerks Division, who was secretary for the Veterans committee. Carolyn uses the currently approved criteria to approve or deny the requests.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 Smith's Knoll - Stoney Creek re-interment

No update

5.2 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration

No update

•2013 Smiths Knoll Remembrance Ceremony

Rebecca to ask Sarah Ehmke to call Art with an update, if any are available.

5.3 Upcoming Events

RHLI – September 14, Meet and Greet at Armoury, September 15, Trooping of the Colour at Canadian Warplane Heritage, September 16, Ceremony at Dieppe Monument,
Registration deadline for these events - August 31

150th anniversary of Her Majesty's Army and Navy - October 2014

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Membership replenishment

With the passing of John Clarke the committee requires one new member. Clerks will not be advertising for new members for Citizen Volunteer Committees until the next term of Council. Please make other Veterans organizations aware the City will be seeking new members in early 2015. Any interested veterans may attend meetings to determine interest. They would not have a vote.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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

Notes: Bob Fyfe will be away for the month of October.

Future meeting discussion items

- Logistics and budget implications of increased numbers when media releases are sent for veterans' events