

TRUSTEES OF SOLDIERS MEMORIALS

MINUTES OF MEETING APRIL 3, 2024

Call to Order by Chairman Bill Phelps at 4pm at the VSO Office Main Street

Greenfield **Pledge of Allegiance:** All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Members and Guests: Those in attendance did a self-introduction. *Bill Phelps, *Dave Lewis, Sandy Magill who has submitted Trustee application to the Mayor's Office, Chris Demars (Veterans Service Officer / VSO); *John Ambo, Tom Meshako, President of Greenfield Savings Bank; and John Baranowski. (*Present trustees)

Old Business: Discussion between the former VSO and more recent discussion with present VSO Chris Demars regarding the cleaning of the Spanish American Memorial was tabled until the new Library construction was completed. Since Tom Meshako was present and the property where the Spanish American Memorial resides, he was invited to speak first. He stated that Greenfield Savings Bank will maintain the cleaning of the Spanish American Memorial and it will remain in its present location since the bank purchased the old library building. The bank will be painting the building, its original colors befitting its placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and landscaping the area around the monument.

Election of Officers: Chairman: Bill Phelps Secretary: Sandy Magill

New Business: Discussion centered around a new memorial honoring veterans who have served in conflicts/wars after Viet Nam ending in 1973. Committee members will look at a location at the Veterans Mall area. Committee members have been asked to view other memorials and come back to the next meeting with possible memorial types. It will be necessary to investigate funding, site, criteria, and the bidding process. Discussion was held as to possible funding since the Veterans Monument account has \$8,306.97. Chris Demars mentioned possible grant funding and will help with accessing those.

Old Business: The proposed sidewalk painting at the Veterans Mall to honor Frederick Douglass has been moved to the sidewalk adjacent to the Veterans Mall rather than at the Veterans Mall per discussion by Chris Demars with Christian LaPlante.

Meeting Schedule: Meetings will be scheduled quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month. Due to the expediting plans for a new monument, the next meeting will be held May 1 at 5pm at the John Zonn Center. Emails will be sent regarding meetings and place of meetings.

Planning Ahead: Trustees are requested to bring monument ideas at the next meeting. Measurements of the possible places at the Mall will be taken prior to the May meeting.

Executive Session: NONE

Adjourned: 5:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Magill, Secretary