

Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc.  
Minutes – October 12, 2022

President Bob Mordecai called the 51<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the Hamden Fire Retirees' Association, Inc. to order at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at the Hamden Elks' Hall.

The Chair opened the meeting by having members and guests stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All remained standing for a moment of silence in memory of members John O'Hare, who passed away on July 24<sup>th</sup>, and Guy White, who passed away on August 10<sup>th</sup>, also former Commissioner Jim O'Brien, and Jim Wetmore, brother of former Chief Paul Wetmore, all of whom provided memorabilia to the HFRA archives.

Acting Chief Jeffrey Naples was invited and kindly offered some words of praise for today's honorees.

**MINUTES** – The Secretary read the minutes of the July meeting. An error in the date of Ray Dobbs' passing was noted and corrected. Following the date correction, a motion was made by Bill Fitzmaurice, seconded by Chick Manware, and passed to accept the minutes as corrected.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Two donations in memory of John O'Hare were received, including a \$25 donation from Augie Williams and \$100 from David Weed on behalf of the night staff of Midstate, where John's daughter Joan works.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – The Secretary-Treasurer read the report for the third quarter.

Checking balance as of July 1, 2022	\$ 490.87
Shares balance as of July 1, 2022	<u>3,522.86</u>
Total balance as of July 1, 2022	\$ 4,013.73
Income: (includes a 44-cent dividend into Shares)	\$ 155.44
Expenses	\$ (- 144.00)
Transfers from Checking to Savings	\$ None
Checking balance as of September 30, 2022	\$ 545.87
Shares balance as of September 30, 2022	<u>3,523.30</u>
Total balance as of September 30, 2022	\$ 4,069.17
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Activity since September 30 <sup>th</sup>	
100 Forever Postcard Class stamps	\$ 44.00
4 Memorial Plaques	171.96
Blank Dues cards	23.39
Blank Certificates (Honorary Members)	<u>12.22</u>
Total activity since September 30, 2022	\$ 251.57
Checking balance as of October 12, 2022	\$ 294.30

A motion was made by Chick Manware, seconded by Mike Murray, to accept the third quarter report. Passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEES – Benefits Committee** – The Chair reported on the status of the Agreement between the HGSRA litigants and the Town. The suit has been settled and the E-Board of the HGSRA is waiting for the Legislative Council to sign off on it. No objections are anticipated.

**Sunshine Committee** – The Secretary reported that several members participated in the Honor Guard for John O’Hare. A card from this Association was sent to Jim Wetmore while he was convalescing in Whitney Manor, and a sympathy card was sent to Mike Ambriscoe on the recent death of his sister.

**History Committee** – The Secretary reported once again that Mayor Garrett’s chief of staff, Sean Grace, had informed him that the money set aside a few years ago to help renovate the old one-room schoolhouse for a possible fire museum is still in the budget. Vic Mitchell, a new fire commissioner and a frequent guest at HFRA meetings will be a liaison to work with this Association, the volunteers, Local 2687, and Mr. Grace in order to organize a committee to get it done. He noted that the \$50,000 that former Chief Berardesca got into the fire budget several years ago for the purpose of renovating the old schoolhouse for a Hamden fire museum is still there.

The Secretary also received a request from newly-promoted Lieut. Kevin Martin who is building a display case to house HFD memorabilia. Lieut. Martin reported that there is a lot of enthusiasm about the department’s history among the career members. He asked if we had any department artifacts or related memorabilia to contribute. The Secretary wrote back that until we get the museum up and running, we would be pleased to lend (emphasis on “lend”) appropriate items for the project.

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – The Chair gave the floor to the Secretary, who is willing to stay on as secretary if other members will take on the related tasks, like meeting everything involved with meeting preparation, tasks that are not spelled out in the by-laws. The Chair handed the gavel over to Vice president Fitzmaurice, who asked for nominations for the office of president for the 2023-24 calendar years. The Secretary nominated Bob Mordecai. Jim Leddy made a motion to close the nominations for president, seconded by Jim Koutsopolos. Motion passed unanimously.

The gavel was returned to the Chair, who then called for nominations for the rest of the officers whose terms are up at the end of this year. Jim Koutsopolos made a motion to nominate Bill Fitzmaurice for Vice president, Dave Johnson for Secretary and Treasurer, and Jim Leddy for another six-year term as Trustee.

**OLD BUSINESS** – The Secretary nominated Rite O’Hare and Carolyn White, widows of our deceased brothers John O’Hare and Guy White, to Honorary Membership in the Association. Motion was seconded by Augie Williams and passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS** – The Chair noted that the Elks have been very kind to our Association for the past 13 years. Several times we have asked the Elks if there is anything we can do to re-pay them for their generosity and each time we have been told that helping others is what they do. The Chair suggested that we purchase a new flag in a frame. Kerry Castracane made a motion that the Executive Board decide on purchasing a flag for the Elks’ Club. Motion seconded by Chief Manware. Motion passed unanimously.

The Secretary noted that he has run out of space in his home for the many items of HFD history that he has been accumulating since we organized in 2009, and before. He is also presently renting a space (at his own expense). We need a place to store our archives that is accessible to authorized members only and to no one else. There was a lengthy discussion on possible locations. Don Buechele will look into the availability of storage space in the old one-room schoolhouse that would be accessible to no one except authorized members of the HFRA.

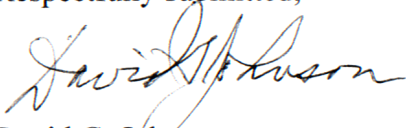
**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION** – A member suggested purchasing a \$100 gift certificate for the Secretary in consideration of his efforts, which the Secretary respectfully declined citing his love of the job.

Another member inquired about member Paul Turner, who suffered a stroke over Labor Day weekend. The Secretary reported that a special password-protected page was put on the website to keep members informed on Paul's condition as we acquire new reports. No updates have been provided for several weeks.

The Chair announced the presentations of memorial plaques honoring four of our members who passed since last October's meeting. Austin Williams presented John O'Hare's memorial plaque to his widow Rita and daughter Joan, who were accompanied by Joan's husband Tom Roach and John O'Hare's grandson Jonathan Firth. Historian Dave Johnson presented Richard Lostritto's memorial plaque to his widow Margaret, who was accompanied by Jim and Joyce Koutsopolos, Jeff Pechmann, and Paul Frodel. President Bob Mordecai presented Ray Dobbs' memorial plaque to Ray's widow Niki, who was accompanied by Ray's niece Janet Tragianese and family friend Joan Sotere. Historian Dave Johnson accepted Guy White's memorial plaque on behalf of Guy's family members, who live in Florida. The plaque will be mailed to Guy's daughter Denise.

Following the presentations, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Leddy, seconded by Jim Koutsopolos, at 1:59 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Johnson  
Secretary

Members

(18): D. Berardesca, D. Buechele, K. Castracane, W. Fitzmaurice, P. Frodel, D. Johnson, J. Koutsopolos, J. Leddy, T. Lunn, H. Mangler, F. Manware, R. Mordecai, M. Murray, J. Pechmann, D. Strawhince, R. Tortora, R. Viglione, and A. Williams.

Guest (9): Acting Chief Jeffrey Naples, Marge Lostritto, Joyce Koutsopolos, Joan O'Hare Roach, Tom Roach, Jonathan Firth, Niki Dobbs, Janet Tragianese, and Joan Sotere.