



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

**Hometown Hero Selection Committee
Monday, March 4, 2024
Probate Court Conference Room, Town Hall
6:00 p.m.**

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Housekeeping Items
 - a) Selection of Chair
2. Review of Existing Hometown Hero Policy & Nomination Form and Discussion of any Potential Edits
3. Minutes of May 1, 2023

Adjournment



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Guidelines for the Hometown Hero Program

Adopted by Board
of Selectmen

November 13, 1996

Amended February 23, 1998

Amended March 26, 2018

Amended March XX, 2024

1. Background Information

The Program was initiated in 1986 by Governor William O'Neill as part of the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Connecticut. Any municipality could designate residents as "Hometown Heroes" for any deed or service that made the community a better place in which to live. State certificates were presented to the 42 individuals and 4 organizations on May 12, 1986. The following year, First Selectwoman Margaret Shanks continued the program with certificates developed for Simsbury, naming 48 designates. It has been continued since, with Hometown Heroes recognized at a ceremony during the month of May as May 12th is the date of Simsbury's birth.

2. Criteria for Selection

- A. A person(s) who is a resident, or who is active in the Simsbury community, or who lived in Simsbury during the time period that is under consideration.
- B. Person(s) who has demonstrated selfless and altruistic behavior which contributes significantly to the betterment of our Town.
- C. That such deed or action performed inures primarily to the Town of Simsbury, although not necessarily exclusively; and that.
- D. Any individual or group that has been nominated to the Hometown Hero Award Committee (henceforth "Committee") shall be duly considered with the following exceptions:
 - The hero shall not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected ~~or~~ **appointed official**. Nor shall the hero have benefited economically from his/ her endeavors on behalf of the Town. **If the hero is an appointed official, their nomination should be for actions and behavior that is outside the scope of their appointed duties.**
- E. There will be no quotas or automatic selections by the Committee. Recognizing the premise that an abundance of awards will dilute the

significance of the award, the Committee is duly charged to use its discretion in the number to be awarded.

3. **The Selection Process**

- A. Written nominations will be requested and received during a thirty (30) day period typically occurring in whole or part during the months of March and/or April.
- B. The Selection Committee shall review the names nominated for the Hometown Hero Award. The Committee shall make selection and approve the list of award recipients no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled ceremony.
- C. The Town Manager's Office shall notify all award recipients of the time and place of the award ceremony.
- D. The Town Manager's Office shall complete arrangements for the ceremony such as scheduling, publicity, and refreshments.
- E. The names of award recipients will be engraved on the Hometown Heroes plaque displayed in Town Hall.

4. **The Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen on a biennial basis. The Selection Committee shall consist of the First Selectman, a Board of Selectmen member of the opposite party, a member of the Historical Society, a business leader, a previous hometown hero, and a member of a veterans or service organization, with the goal of non-partisanship in mind.

The membership of the Committee shall be recommended by the First Selectman and the Town Manager to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen is the appointing authority.

Staff assistance to the Selection Committee shall include reasonable requests deemed necessary by the Committee.



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program – 2023

Please return to the Town Manager’s Office, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 - no later than 6:00 pm on Monday, April 24, 2023. Forms may also be emailed to townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov. To complete a form online, visit <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/hometownhero>.

Criteria for Selection

(Adopted by the Board of Selectmen, November 13, 1996; Amended February 23, 1998 & March 26, 2018)

- A. A person(s) who is a resident, or who is active in the Simsbury community, or who lived in Simsbury during the time period that is under consideration;
- B. Person(s) who has/have demonstrated selfless and altruistic behavior which contributes significantly to the betterment of our Town;
- C. That such deed or action performed inures primarily to the Town of Simsbury, although not necessarily exclusively; and that
- D. Any individual or group that has been nominated to the Hometown Hero Award Committee (henceforth ‘Committee’) shall be duly considered with the following exceptions: The Hero shall not be a member of Town staff, nor a sitting elected or appointed official. Nor shall the Hero have benefited economically from his/her endeavors on behalf of the Town.

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee’s Address: _____

Nominee’s Phone Number: _____

Nominee’s Email Address: _____

Please describe the Nominee’s act/deed and/or behavior which contributes/contributed to the Town of Simsbury and attach to this form:

Check one of the following regarding the Nominee’s status during time period under consideration:

- Simsbury Resident Active in Simsbury Community Lived in Simsbury at time

Name & Phone Number of Person completing form or (Contact Information for Person completing form)

Telephone (860) 658-3200
Facsimile (860) 658-9467

www.simsbury-ct.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

8:30 - 7:00 Mondays
8:30 - 4:30 Tuesday through Thursday
8:30 - 1:00 Friday



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

**Hometown Hero Selection Committee
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023**

MINUTES - DRAFT

Members Present: TJ Donahue, Melissa Brett, Eric Wellman, Leonard Lanza,

Staff Present: Thomas Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

1) Housekeeping Items

- a) Selection of Chair: Mr. Lanza nominated Mr. Wellman as Chair of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee. Mr. Donahue seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- b) Mr. Wellman asked the Committee about establishing May 6, 2024 as their regularly scheduled meeting date for 2024, hearing no concerns the 2024 Hometown Hero Selection Committee's regular meeting was set for May 6, 2024 with a tentative date for the awards ceremony of May 29, 2024. There was a discussion about updating the guidelines. A regular meeting of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee was added for Monday March 4, 2024 to discuss possible amendments to the guidelines.

2) Discussion on Hometown Hero Nominations

The Committee discussed all of the nominations in detail.

3) Determine Hometown Hero Award Recipient(s)

Mr. Donahue moved to nominate Alvin Schwapp, Bob Braunlich, Brad Griswold, Dennis Michaud, the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library, and Michele Jenks as 2023 Simsbury Hometown Heroes. Mr. Lanza seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

4) 2023 Ceremony

Mr. Fitzgerald informed the group that the ceremony is on May 22nd at 5:00pm. Staff will work to notify the award recipients as well as the people who nominated them.

5) Minutes

The minutes of May 2, 2022 were approved as presented by consensus.

Mr. Lanza moved, Ms. Brett seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Fitzgerald
Acting Deputy Town Manager
Town of Simsbury