

Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Eric Wellman, First Selectman

Watch the Hometown Hero Selection Committee meeting LIVE on Facebook
at <https://www.facebook.com/simsbury.tmo.7/>

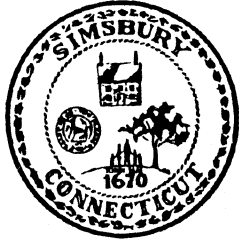
Hometown Hero Selection Committee
Monday, May 3, 2021
6:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Housekeeping Items
 - a) Selection of Chair
 - b) 2022 Meeting Date (5/2/22) and Awards Ceremony (5/23/22)
2. Discussion on Hometown Hero Nominations
3. Determine Hometown Hero Award Recipient(s)
4. 2021 Ceremony and Pandemic Impact on Event (5/26/21)
 - a. Potential Move to June 28, 2021
5. Minutes of May 7, 2020

Adjournment



Town of Simsbury

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Maria E. Capriola - Town Manager

To: Ericka Butler, Town Clerk

Cc: Thomas Fitzgerald, Management Specialist
Eric Wellman, First Selectman, Chair of Hometown Hero Selection Committee

From: Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager

Date: May 3, 2021

Re: Hometown Hero Selection Committee - **2022** Regular Meeting Schedule

At their meeting on May 3, 2021 the Hometown Hero Selection Committee agreed by consensus to establish a regular meeting schedule for 2019 as follows:

Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6pm

The meetings will be held virtually or in a location to be determined. Meetings will be properly noticed in accordance with FOIA requirements.



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Guidelines for the Hometown Hero Program

Adopted by Board of Selectmen

November 13, 1996

Amended February 23, 1998

Amended March 26, 2018

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.
- 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.



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Nomination Form for Hometown Hero Program – 2021

Please return to the Town Manager's Office, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 - no later than 12:00 pm on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. 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)

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- 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: Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

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

Hometown Heroes Nomination - Farmington Valley VNA
I nominate The Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association for their heroic response during the Coronavirus Pandemic. The FVNA nurses and office staff, selflessly mobilized to serve our community, I am in awe. All I can compare it to is the nurses on the front line in time of war. I was able to book my first appointment at the FVNA mobile unit at EGHS using the State VAMS site. I do not drive highway anymore and having it available locally to me relieved that stress. I am very grateful to the FVNA for bringing the vaccine to our communities. Their organized Mobile location set up at EGHS in March was well staffed and mapped out efficiently from checking in to observation area after the shot and the exit. The night before my appointment I watched the news on TV. The coverage was about reactions and side effects of the vaccine. This worried me, however the nurse explained to me how important it was to move your arm after the vaccine. She said some people think they shouldn't use the arm, but moving it helps distribute the vaccine from the injection site. No one had ever told me that in 68 years! Well, the Nurse was right and it worked. I will always do this going forward in my life. The nurses give you everything you need to know at the appointment, even set up your second dose appointment before you leave. I had not figured out how to do that yet and was so happy to have that scheduled.

In a world where we have been isolated and alone for over a year now, their empathy was appreciated as much as their professionalism. I went in scared and came out feeling happy and healthier than I had in a year.

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)

Beverly Mlinek [REDACTED]

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

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8:30 ~ 4:30 Tuesday through Thursday

Hometown Heroes Nomination - Farmington Valley VNA - 2021

I nominate The Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association for their heroic response during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The FVVNA nurses and office staff, selflessly mobilized to serve our community, I am in awe. All I can compare it to is the nurses on the front line in time of war.

I was able to book my first appointment at the FVVNA mobile unit at EGHS using the State VAMS site. I do not drive highway anymore and having it available locally to me relieved that stress. I am very grateful to the FVVNA for bringing the vaccine to our communities.

Their organized Mobile location set up at EGHS in March was well staffed and mapped out efficiently from checking in to observation area after the shot and the exit.

The night before my appointment I watched the news on TV. The coverage was about reactions and side effects of the vaccine. This worried me, however the nurse explained to me how important it was to move your arm after the vaccine. She said some people think they shouldn't use the arm, but moving it helps distribute the vaccine from the injection site. No one had ever told me that in 68 years! Well, the Nurse was right and it worked. I will always do this going forward in my life.

The nurses give you everything you need to know at the appointment, even set up your second dose appointment before you leave. I had not figured out how to do that yet and was so happy to have that scheduled..



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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:

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8:30 - 1:00 Friday

Submitted on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - 12:38pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:380:6aa0:e9e7:125:db3:9473

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Kevin Kurian

Nominee's Address:

Nominee's Phone Number:

Nominee's Email Address:

Description of Nominee: Kevin is an NYU student who has used the unique opportunity to reside in his hometown of Simsbury during a pandemic to the fullest. His community outreach and engagement with other residents has immensely benefited Simsbury. Last June, he was foundational in the execution of the Black Lives Matter protests in Simsbury. He worked diligently to amplify Black voices and ensure the safety of all attendees. Kevin is also currently an integral part of the planning of Simsbury's anti-Asian hate rally on April 22nd, and cares deeply about racial discrimination and the way it uniquely impacts different minority groups. Kevin is only 20 years old and has graduated from Simsbury High School to attend college, but has played an active role in addressing systemic racism and helping to engage other community members through protests, rallies, and speeches.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Lauren Winkleblack

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

Submitted on Monday, April 5, 2021 - 2:54pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:280:6980:41ab:ac4:c862:2f4f

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Jan Lintner

Nominee's Address:

Nominee's Phone Number:

Nominee's Email Address:

Description of Nominee: Jan Lintner is a vital part of the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge Committee. The Flower Bridge is an icon in the town of Simsbury, which is enjoyed by both residents and visitors. With her expertise and experience, Jan undertakes many jobs-Board Secretary, designer of flowers for boxes and baskets, orderer of flowers chosen, coordinator of Bridge subscriptions, guider of actual planting, and supervisor of basket deadheaders. She also thinks outside the box to solve problems that arise. Her deep commitment and selfless dedication to the Flower Bridge is evident in all she does. We believe Jan Lintner is a deserving candidate for a Simsbury Hometown Hero.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Sharene Wassell and Deeg Mackay

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:



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Name of Nominee: Jan Hintner

Nominee's Address: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Nominee's Email Address: [REDACTED]

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)

Mabel Howard [REDACTED]

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I have known Jan Lintner for many years. She is soft spoken, kind, and smart. Jan is an active participant in town activities through her association with the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge and the Simsbury Garden Club. Jan is an excellent team worker. She benefits the town. Jan speaks from her heart. She always pitches in.

Over many years Jan has been a volunteer at the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge. Jan is the Secretary for ODHFB. The bridge began with four flower boxes. Now, Jan is currently in charge of the volunteers who take care of the 72 flower boxes; 32 flower baskets; 14 border column flower baskets; and the Irrigation System. This is a huge increase from the four boxes that adorned the ODHFB.

Jan prepares a diagram for each flower box, flower basket, and border column flower basket. She oversees ordering plants. Jan and the ODHFB members plant the hanging flower baskets at Pickin' Patch. Jan and others water these hanging baskets until the weather becomes warmer around the 15th of May. ODHFB members volunteer to pick up the hanging baskets and drive them to the ODHFB. Upon arrival at the Bridge the baskets get hung. The flower boxes and border column flower baskets are then to be filled with dirt and the diagram lists the proper plants to be put in place. Jan is there for supervision of all the plants and people. Fall comes and Jan oversees the taking down of the hanging baskets, and the removal of the plants and dirt; removal of the flowers from the boxes and border column baskets. Jan and crew then place evergreens in the boxes for winter.

Jan has participated with the opening of and plantings at the new Hop Brook Park.

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Mabel Howard

Submitted on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - 10:51am

Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:182:280:7aa0:20e8:741f:a5ac:7860

Submitted values are:

Name of Nominee: Dorothy "Deeg" Mackay

Nominee's Address:

Nominee's Phone Number:

Nominee's Email Address:

Description of Nominee:

After retiring from a long and successful career teaching Simsbury's elementary school children, Deeg followed in her mother's footsteps (the late Dorothy Lappen), by pouring here boundless energy into town activities. She co-chairs the vast effort of organizing flower boxes and baskets for The Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge, provides support to the Social Services Department for Simsbury families in need, volunteers at the annual Simsbury Public Library Book Sale and for the Simsbury United Methodist Church's participation in Simsbury Celebrates. She is a member of the Simsbury 350 Anniversary Celebration River Committee and is on the Patient Advisory Committee Hoffman Heart Saint Francis.

Deeg and husband David have lived in Simsbury for many years. They raised their two daughters, Heather and Jill here.

Nominee's Status During Period Under Consideration: Simsbury Resident

Name of Person Completing Form: Karen Matheson

Phone Number (or other contact information) of Person Completing Form:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:



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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:

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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:

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From: [Mary Czaikowski](#)
To: [Manager Town](#)
Subject: Home Town Hero - Bob Kane
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:40:23 AM
Attachments: [2021_HTH Nomination Form.pdf](#)

Thank you for allowing this late submission. I do not have access to a printer but was able to update the pdf and will include my narrative by way of this email for attachment.

Bob Kane has been a fixture in Simsbury for most of his adult life serving first at Fitzgeralds and then in the capacity of owner for Kane's Market. As a testament to his character, his mentor, boss and friend, Jack Fitzgerald helped him start his business despite the likely competition. Over the past 40 years, Bob has tirelessly served our community. There are many thoughts that come to mind ...

- always ready to help EVERY charity that approached him.
- He was a long-standing vital supporter of the crew team, Simsbury Volunteer Fire Dept., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Simsbury, St. Mary's Carnival, Central School Carnival, Chamber of Commerce, All the schools actually... just to name a few.
- Simsbury Meadows depended on his stand for delicious food along with most other functions that needed an anchor restaurant. That probably wasn't always in Bob's best interest, but he was always there.
- Bob would always greet you by name which he learned almost immediately along with your preferences, kids' names and the last thing you bought to cook.. "How did it come out?"
- The many teenagers he mentored along with the way they would always talk about what they learned and how hard Bob worked... expecting the same! It takes effort to mentor young people in their first job and this alone was an amazing strength of his.
- Every holiday was an all out effort to meet your needs, even last minute. If you were looking for something special, he would order it or go into the back and carve it up just for you. Very few businesses would take that time.
- As a home care nurse, I would see the extra effort he would make to assist our seniors with their purchases. Many of his delicious prepared foods helped our seniors survive!
- During COVID, he was always careful in his attention to cleanliness. Everyone wore their masks. If you were buying for the freezer, he went the extra mile to shrink wrap your purchase at no charge.

In summary, the retirement of Bob is very well deserved, but he will be missed and I feel he embodies what a Home Town Hero should strive to be. I sincerely hope you will agree with me!.

Sincerely,
Mary Czaikowski



Town of Simsbury

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Hometown Hero Selection Committee Special Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2020

MINUTES - DRAFT

Members Present: TJ Donahue, Elaine Lang, Mike Paine, Eric Wellman, Leonard Lanza, Melissa Brett

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Thomas Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm.

1) Housekeeping Items

Melissa Brett was introduced to the group as the newest member of the Committee. E. Wellman was elected chair of the Committee by consensus. The group established the 2021 regular meeting schedule with a meeting on May 3rd, 2021 and the Award Ceremony on May 26, 2021.

2) Discussion on Hometown Hero Nominations

The Committee discussed all of the nominations in detail.

3) Determine Hometown Hero Award Recipient(s)

E. Lang moved, L. Lanza seconded for Jean Miles to be a Hometown Hero Recipient. All were in favor.

M. Brett moved, E. Lang seconded for Katie Costolnick to be a Hometown Hero Recipient. All were in favor.

M. Paine moved, T. Donohue seconded for Margaret Diachenko to be a Hometown Hero Recipient. All were in favor.

L. Lanza moved, M. Paine seconded for Ann Long to be a Hometown Hero Recipient posthumously. All were in favor.

M. Paine moved, T. Donohue seconded for Gail Ryan to be a Hometown Hero Recipient. All were in favor.

E. Lang moved, T. Donohue seconded for Rob Cushman to be a Hometown Hero Recipient. All were in favor.

M. Paine moved, E. Wellman seconded for Jim Fleming to be a Hometown Hero Recipient. All were in favor.

4) Rescheduling 2020 Ceremony

E. Wellman informed the committee that normally the Hometown Hero Ceremony is held before the 2nd Board of Selectmen meeting in May but due to the current world situation that is not

possible. E. Wellman said he would like to reschedule the ceremony to a time where all friends and family of the recipients can attend. The consensus of the Committee was they would also like to have the friends and family of the recipients present as well. The Committee asked staff to look at the August Board of Selectmen meeting or the 1st September meeting as potential ceremony dates.

5) Minutes

The minutes of January 6, 2020 were approved as presented by consensus.

E. Lang moved, L. Lanza seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Fitzgerald
Management Specialist
Town of Simsbury