

Board Meeting Friends of the First Company Governor's Horse Guards

Date: 05-26-2015

Location: Headquarters 1 GHG Avon, CT 18:30 hrs

Present: Board Members: Gary Brooks, Bill Cowell, Anna Bongiorno, Steve Meltzer, Harvey Silverman, Mary Ellen Diot, Ken Nelson and Andrew Arsenault

Guest: Debra Key, Art Boyle and Chris Miller

The Friends of the First Company Governor's Horse Guards meet to discuss the options available to the Friends and/or the Troop if the Military Department requires the Troop to move its headquarters to Newtown if funding is not restored in the coming days. Also, will the donations that the Friends have been providing for the last 4 years still be required if the legislator restores funding?

Decision/ Background/Action

- Gary Brooks reviewed his findings and discussion with Jon Lender that resulted in an article being printed in the *Hartford Courant* on May 23, 2015 detailing pending budget cuts and transfer of 1 GHG to Newton, CT. **See attached article.**
- Many individuals, former members and friends were involved in getting the Avon Town Council to pass a resolution stating that it would like the Horse Guard to remain in Avon. This resolution was passed on to the state legislator. Also a number individuals have contact their local representative directly to get continued support of funding for the Horse Guard.
- Art Boyle indicated that Joseph O'Brien, attorney for the town of West Hartford, has reviewed the historical document regarding the donation of land in Avon to the State and that it was clearly the intent from these documents that the land be the home of the Horse Guard forever. He also stated that the Guard/Friends have grounds to file an injunction to stop the move to Newton if needed. **Actions:**
 1. Art Boyle is to ask Joseph O'Brien to write a letter to the general assembly appropriations committee, Beth Bye, detailing facts found regarding the land transfer.
 2. Board passed resolution to move forward with injunction if the Military Department requires the troop to move to Newton.
- Chris Miller stated that Military department expected that the public/private donation that the friends have been providing over the last 4 years continue and requested the Friends sent the donation in by July 1, 2015. Chris excused himself from the meeting at that time.
- Steve Meltzer raised the question that a formal agreement for the public/private partnership does not exist and that the Board draft a letter to the Military Department requesting clarification on this matter prior to donating funds for the coming year. **See attached.**

Meeting adjourned @ 20:00 hrs Next meeting TBD

Submitted, William J. Cowell, Secretary

<http://www.friendsofthefirstcompanygovernorshorseguards.org/>