

*Released June 2017*

## **Essex Foundation Funds Veterans Memorial Hall Parking Lot Paving** *Project caps off Centerbrook property upgrades*

Essex, CT – The Essex Foundation Board of Directors recently approved a request for financial assistance from the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, the last known stand-alone, 501(c)(19) nonprofit veterans organization on the East Coast. The donated funds will be used to fully underwrite the cost of paving the 10,633 square-foot gravel parking lot on the group's property located at 3 Westbrook Road in Centerbrook. Sullivan Paving Company, Inc. submitted the winning bid, which also includes a donation of their time and materials to line stripe and mark the new pavement. Work will be completed this summer.

The paving project is one of several initiatives undertaken by the Hall's 184 members to improve the building's interior and exterior over the past three years. Once the Centerbrook Schoolhouse, the building became Essex Veterans Memorial Hall in 1946, and now serves as a resource for veterans, their families, and the greater community, including free hall usage to area nonprofit organizations and scout groups. The Essex Foundation board members considered all of these factors when making the funding decision, agreeing that the project fell within their typical parameters of being of benefit to Essex residents, of being somewhat unique, and requiring relatively quick action. The Essex Foundation board

members were impressed with the hard work and dramatic improvements that have been made by members of Essex Veterans Memorial Hall over the past few years and were happy to be able to help with upgrading the property that has become a valuable community center. Community members who would like to donate to the project can send a check made out to The Essex Foundation, PO Box 64, Essex, CT 06426, indicating that it is for the Veterans Memorial Hall parking lot.



**CAUGHT ON CAMERA:** *Members of The Essex Foundation Board of Directors presented a check to Veterans Memorial Hall to pay for the paving of their parking lot. Pictured from left to right are Judy Bombaci, Jim Clark, Bruce Glowac, Sam Riggio (EVMH member), Alex Breen (EVMH member), Herb Clark, and Stick Hyde.*