

VETERANS, CEREMONY AND PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2016

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, October 10, 2016 at the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Vice Chairman C. Smith called the meeting to order at 7PM and asked those present to stand for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christine Smith, Vice Chairman
Niles Mackenzie
Gregory Smith
Russell Edwards
John Jansen

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Thomas Flowers, Chairman
Pattie Deer

GUESTS PRESENT

Kathryn Kobishyn, Milford Garden Club
Marilyn Wardell, Milford Garden Club
Bunny Elmore, Milford Garden Club
Jim Knott, American Legion Post 196
Duane Berge, Milford Concert Band
Wayne Carson

C. Smith made a motion to suspend regular business to allow members of the Milford Garden Club to discuss the Blue Star Memorial. Seconded by N. Mackenzie; all in favor.

- Blue Star luminaries being sold through the Garden Club as part of their fundraising efforts. Garden Club is going to ask the Downtown Business Association and downtown merchants to place luminaries in their store windows over the Memorial 2017 weekend.
- Base of Memorial was discussed and reviewed. Pictures of the Bethel Memorial were shared, which shows a circular cement base, approximately 5-6' wide, with inset bronze medallions representing all of the services. G. Smith made a motion that VCPC supports the Milford Garden Club's modified plan on the base of the Blue Star Memorial. Seconded by N. Mackenzie; all in favor.
- Several questions were raised by the Garden Club and discussed by VCPC; further discussion with Chairman Flowers required:
 - How would the Blue Star Memorial dedication fit in with the 2017 Memorial weekend activities?
 - Musical accompaniment during the ceremony?
 - Is there a list of dignitaries that VCPC would like the Garden Club to invite?
 - How can students get involved?
 - Can we get Blue Star families involved too?
 - Small displays recently put up by Garden Club at Public Library and City Clerk's Office to raise awareness; are there other places?
 - Is there a sound system that can be used at the dedication ceremony?
 - Can the Fowler Building be used for a post-dedication reception?

C. Smith made a motion to return back to regular business. Seconded by G. Smith; all in favor.

II. **Consideration of Minutes** – G. Smith made a motion to accept the September 2016 Minutes as distributed. N. Mackenzie seconded; all in favor.

III. **Public Comment/Questions**

1. Greg Knott brought up some concerns:
 - a. Korean/Vietnam Memorial - end dates on both are incorrect. Korea is shown as 1953 and should be 1955; Vietnam should be 1975, not 1973. Also, bushes are beginning to overgrow the monument.
 - b. Conklin Field on Anderson Avenue – field has been changed over the years. The original flagpole was never moved and is covered with vines. The Memorial stone was moved to behind the new backstop, however, it is not in a good spot as people are walking over/on it. Photographs provided.

IV. **Chairman’s Report** – None.

V. **Unfinished Business**

1. Veterans Day Activities
 - a. Parade is on Sunday, November 6th at 2PM; assemble at Parsons Complex between 1-2PM.
 - b. Wreath laying is November 11th at 11AM.
 - c. Aleks Morosky is confirmed as Grand Marshall. Will he be marching or riding?
 - d. Invitations have been sent out.
 - e. Press release sent out; amended press release with additional information to be issued.
2. Downtown Business Association (DBA) – T. Flowers and G. Smith met with the Downtown Business Association regarding changing the date of parades from Sunday afternoons to Saturday mornings. They are not in favor of that, but do support the Commission and would like to work with VCPC.
3. Building Repairs – Outside light, downspouts and door flashing issues not resolved.

VI. **New Business** – None.

VII. **Good of the Order**

1. DAV Auxiliary Coat Drive 9AM-3PM on October 15th at the Fowler Building parking lot.
2. VFW Testimonial in Rocky Hill on October 16th.
3. Vietnam Veterans Healing Wall Memorial will be on display in West Haven October 20th – 23rd.
4. Pancake breakfast at American Legion Post 196 on Sunday, November 6th.
5. DAV *Forget Me Not* drive on November 12th - 13th at Stratford Stop & Shop.

VIII. **Possible Agenda Topics**

1. Building repairs.
2. Names on plaques.

IX. **Announcements** – None.

Being no further business to discuss, C. Smith made a motion to adjourn. R. Edwards seconded; all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:13PM.

Next meeting will be held on November 14, 2016 at 7PM at the Fowler Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Durner
Recording Secretary