

VETERANS, CEREMONY, AND PARADE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2017

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, January 9, 2017 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman T. Flowers 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

Thomas Flowers, Chairman
Christine Smith, Vice Chairman
Pattie Deer
Russell Edwards
John Jansen
Niles MacKenzie
Gregory Smith

ABSENT/EXCUSED

None.

GUESTS PRESENT

Jim Knott, American Legion Post 196 (left shortly after the start of the meeting).

- I. Consideration of Minutes – December 2016 Minutes were distributed and read electronically. Motion made by G. Smith that the minutes be accepted as distributed; seconded by N. MacKenzie. Motion passed unanimously.
- II. Public Comment/Questions – None.
- III. Chairman's Report - None.
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - a) Founders Walk
 - i. Work is very evidently underway.
 - b) Fowler Building
 - i. Drain pipes – fixed – more to be done.
 - ii. Signs – Chairman Flowers sent Mayor Blake and Public Works Director, Chris Saley, the exact wording for the signs for the building residence.
 - iii. Building Usage Form – Contact phone is not correct, put Chairman Flowers' cell number.
 - c) Conklin Field
 - i. J. Jansen will chair the committee on the field effort and will give report in April 2017.
 - ii. The flag pole will be moved and plaque replaced this spring.
 - iii. Chairman Flowers will call Paul Piscatelli on input and point of contact from the leagues and will pass this on to J. Jansen.

d) Korean and Vietnam Memorial Statues (on the Green)

- i. Fixing Dates - Linda Natoli with Milford Monument is away on PTO, so Laura will look at the memorials and do a feasibility study this week.
- ii. Hedges – Chairman Flowers will talk with Steve Johnson, Open Space Manager, to see when these can be cut back.

V. New Business

1) Veterans Memorial Auditorium

- i. There have been discussions by the City for having it opened for larger venue events. G. Smith made a motion that Chairman Flowers ask the Mayor for an invitation to any meetings or discussions regarding the City's use of the Auditorium. Seconded by J. Jansen; passed unanimously.
- ii. It was noted that in the August 2016 minutes, G. Smith made a motion to find the names for the Auditorium plaques, starting with post-Vietnam conflict first. The next steps are to figure out the size/scope of the project (veterans who enlisted from Milford since 1975).
- iii. Chairman Flowers and G. Smith will contact the City Clerk, Joann Roehrig, who can confirm if the veterans were from Milford when they enlisted, not dishonorably discharged since 1975, and then later filed for tax exemption after they came back.
- iv. Will need list from the Tax Assessor and will advertise in the local media to solicit veterans from the pre-determined group of post-1975 veterans.
- v. Need to set up a time to meet with City Clerk and Tax Assessor to get their feedback on the 1975 to-date list. Chairman Flowers asked G. Smith to set it up for next week. Need to know how many are on one of the Vietnam plaques; there is a possibility we may double this.
- vi. N. MacKenzie would like to explore having a kiosk in the Auditorium, but that may be a future project.

VI. Good of the Order

- Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, CT – allows veterans to reserve plots for themselves and their spouses.
- Downtown Business Association – Chairman Flowers will invite them and their members to our meeting to discuss making the Memorial Day Parade and Blue Star Memorial activities, among other parades/veterans events, better.
- VFW 7788 roast beef dinner Saturday, January 14 at 7PM.
- Free Harbor Yard hockey game to honor veterans Saturday, January 14 at 7PM

VII. Possible Agenda Topics - None.

VIII. Announcements - None.

Being no further business to discuss, C. Smith made a motion to adjourn; seconded by N. MacKenzie. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Next meeting will be held on February 13, 2017 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Smith
Secretary Pro Tem