

**VETERANS, CEREMONY, AND
PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 14, 2012**

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, May 14, 2012 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman W. Kates called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. and asked those present to stand for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT

William Kates, Chairman
Christine Smith, Vice Chairman
Thomas Flowers
Christopher Roberts
Russell Edwards

Absent/Excused: Tim Mead

II. Consideration of Minutes – April 9, 2012

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Flowers made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment/Questions

Wayne Carson wanted to know if the DAV/VVA want him to pick up their flags for “Flags on the Graves”. Mr. Roberts and Mr. Edwards responded “No” that their respective groups will pick up their own. DAV/American Legion 34 will handle Milford Cemetery, American Legion 19/VVA will handle St. Mary’s Cemetery and VFW 7788 will handle the King’s Hwy Cemetery.

IV. Chairman’s Report:

a) Parades/Ceremonies – Mr. Edwards will be in charge of organizing the parade divisions. A number of organizations have already RSVP’d. Chairman Kates stated the Twirl Girls will be marching, the two high schools and the Girls and Boy Scouts, Milford Engine 26. A press release has been in the local papers. Chairman Kates will pick up the permit tomorrow. We need signature from the Fire Department, Police Department, Parks and Recs and the Health Department. Mr. Edwards volunteered to get the signatures. The VCPC will get six wreaths to lay out during the Wreath Laying Ceremonies. Chairman Kates still needs to request the transfer of funds for the purchase of flags. He requested more funds for next years. If necessary, we can ask the Veterans organizations for a donation next year.

b) Building Maintenance – None.

c) Building Usage – Mr. Edwards state that the mailbox has been broken for 3 months and needs to be put back on its stand – it needs to be repaired or replaced.

Chairman Kates stated that Ms. Marchesalt who wants to start a support group for kids with special need called last month and would like to use the building Tuesdays, but that night is already books for another organization. He suggested Wednesday, but Ms. Marchesalt did not call back yet.

Chairman Kates also spoke with Peggy Kelly who runs the “Ready to Learn” program for kids with special needs and she does not think that Ms. Marchesalt knows the full extent of what will be required to run such a program and that she should speak to a professional who has this experience. Ms. Marchesalt wants to be independent from the Board of Education. The VCPC has not receive a formal request for the building yet.

V. Unfinished Business

- a) Update – Purchase of flags – Chairman Kates purchased and received 28 gross (7 boxes) with 5 gross left over from last year. He also has some gently used (approximately 300) flags that we can use by the veterans groups to prevent the new ones from walking.
- b) Update – Location of cemetery plots – Mr. Roberts got the current list from the Milford Cemetery from January 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 – only 11 new veterans. He spoke with Linda Natoli today, but she did not have the complete list ready for this meeting. Mr. Roberts wants the data so the Graves and Preservation Committee can maintain it going forward. The VCPC can benefit from some software program that can organize the data. Chairman Kates will laminate the list once it is compiled.

Milford Cemetery groups were very good about turning in their list/maps. Ms. Smith will see if VFW 7788 has something for King’s Hwy Cemetery.

Milford Cemetery is the oldest functioning cemetery in the country that still has placements.

- c) DAV Phone Lines – Mr. Roberts has not had a chance to call Public Works. Chairman Kates will ask when he is there tomorrow.

VI. New Business

Mr. Edwards stated that the POW/MIA flag was taken down on from Fowler Field pavilion and wants to know if it will be replaced. Chairman Kates will ask Public Works when he is there tomorrow. Mr. Roberts also reminded the group that the Fowler Building Flag pole is still not fixed.

VII. Announcements

None.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Flowers made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Smith
Secretary Pro Tem