

**VETERANS, CEREMONY, AND
PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 11, 2012**

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, June 11, 2012 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman W. Kates called the meeting to order at 7:12 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
Russell Edwards

Absent/Excused: Christopher Roberts, Tim Mead

II. Consideration of Minutes – May 14, 2012

Mr. Kates and Mr. Flowers made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2012 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment/Questions

Wayne Carson said that Bob Checkowski and Emory Linton might be coming to discuss the POW/MIA, Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony start time.

IV. Chairman's Report:

a) Parades/Ceremonies

The Memorial Flags on Graves had very good participation. Wayne Carson stated that he has 70 flags to turn in and he believes Bob Checkowski has 1-2 boxes left over. VFW 7788 had not turned in their extra's yet.

Post-mortem of parade, Mrs. Smith said that a couple of people mentioned that there was no Benediction for the ceremony at the gazebo. Harold Murray wanted to know if he was needed to say the Benediction, but ended up with a family conflict for the parade. Discussion ensued and it was noted that we need a program script for the parades.

Also, this parade and last parade we needed someone in the parking lot to prevent groups from jumping in front of others and we need better defined parking areas and group/organization leaders need better control of their group. Chairman Kates will get more input from SGT Shirac from MFPD Traffic Division.

For the most part, the Division organization and step off worked well. The parade had good participation and was well attended. The advertisement of our notable key-note speaker, Dr. Linda Schwartz, may have had some influence there, as well as the great weather we had.

Next time, we should send invitations to National Guard and Reserve units in the area. Chairman Kates will try to get another key-note speaker for the next parade.

- b) Building Maintenance – The POW/MIA Flag over the pavilion is still missing. Chairman Kates noted that the flag was probably in bad shape and was most likely thrown away. He will speak with Public Works and Building Maintenance Department. Mr. Flowers said he would donate a POW/MIA Flag for the Pavilion.

The DAV still needs AC and phone lines. Chairman Kates will work on this during the school summer vacation and he will let the Mayor know we have additional building maintenance issues.

- c) Building Usage – Mr. Edwards stated that the mailbox has been repaired.

V. Unfinished Business

- a) Update – Location of cemetery plots – St. Mary's has a list of veteran's names with a hand-drawn map, but it was not really usable. Mrs. Smith stated that the veterans groups have been putting the flags on for many years without a map. Mr. Carson stated that in all his years of participating in this event, he has only had one complaint.
- b) 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

- a) Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony – Mrs. Smith noted that Mr. Bob Checkowski approached her to discuss this. He had heard of the discussions to reverse the order and he wanted to let the VCPC know that he believed it would be disrespectful of their comrades. Chairman Kates withdrew the suggestion to reverse the order and that we will continue to kick-off the event at the Dough Boy at City Hall.
- b) July 4th Wreath Laying Ceremony – Assembly the Dough Boy Monument at City Hall at 8:45am with kick-off at 9:00am, then proceed to Milford Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Revolutionary War Memorial Monument. Chairman Kates will then announce the laying of a wreath at Liberty Rock in Devon. Mrs. Smith will send out a press release to advertise the event.

VII. Announcements

Mrs. Smith stated that the VFW 7788 will be holding a Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 14th, but did not know the time of the event.

Being no further business to discuss, Mr. Flowers and Mr. Edwards 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