**Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission Regular Meeting**

**January 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Opening:** The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday January 11, 2021 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Tom Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tom Flowers

Mike Kupson

Vincent Zelinsky

Pattie Deer

**ABSENT/EXCUSED**:

Russ Edwards Sr

John (Jack) Jansen

**GUESTS**:

Wayne Carson

Emily Sopchak

Diane Zelinsky –recording secretary -– VIA Teleconference

**Agenda**: Open Agenda

**Consideration of Minutes** –Motion was made by Pattie Deer and 2nd by Mike Kupson to accept the minutes from the November 9, 2020 meeting. There was no December 2020 meeting held

**A quorum was present for tonight’s meeting.**

**Old Business:**

Tom Flowers discussed current building usage. Community Support Group continues to use the building for Sunday morning meetings at 8 am to about 10:30. Tom reported that the Christ Presbyterian Church group has moved their time Sunday Services to 4pm so there is no longer a conflict with the two groups using the Fowler Building. There is also a group being led by Pastor’s wife what meeting on Friday’s to assist in children’s remote learning. Tom reiterated that he handles all Fowler Building usage requests.

**New Business**:

Tom officially sent forth Emily Sopchak’s nomination to the Mayor for consideration to be appointed to the Commission as the Representative for VFW Post 7788. Emily attended this meeting as a guest and gave a brief biography of her past and current military responsibilities as well as her duties with the Milford Police Department. Tom expects Emily’s nomination to be finalized at the February Board of Alderman’s meeting.

Two current members terms expired as of 12/31/20, Jack Jansen who was nominated for another 2-year term ending in 2022, and Russ Edwards, attempts are being made to contact him of his intentions. The mayor also indicated to Tom that there is a Civilian at large position open on the commission.

In regards the 2021 Memorial Day Parade it is still yet to be determined whether it will take place. Discussion was had about proposing to the Major that a similar ceremony like that held for Veterans Day be an alternate plan. All present felt that was a very good idea. Tom was going to approach the Mayor with that suggestion (within the week since this meeting took place) the Mayor agreed to this virtual live stream option. Tom will go forward with inviting Tom Saadi, DVA Commissioner to be the guest speaker for either the parade or City Hall ceremony.

There will also still be a wreath laying event on Sunday, May 30th. Each participating VSO will lay wreaths at all 5 monuments and the members of those lost in the last 2 years will be recognized.

Tom reported that the replacement refrigerator for the Fowler Building has been purchased and is installed in the Fowler Building.

**For the Good of the Order**:

Tom brought up the Soldier/Sailors and Marine Fund which was created in 1919. The America Legion administers this and the State of Connecticut employs people to run it and grants up to $1500 are available to those Veterans in need that served in conflict regardless if you are affiliated with any VSO organization. If anyone knows of a Veteran in need please reach out to Tom to begin the process for the grant request.

Motion was made to adjourn by Vincent Zelinsky and 2nd by Pattie Deere

**Meeting adjourned at**: 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Diane Zelinsky

Recording Secretary