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

**May 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Opening:** The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday May 10, 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 - Chairman

Mike Kupson

Vincent Zelinsky

Pattie Deer

Emily Sopchak (via telephone)

**ABSENT/EXCUSED**:

John (Jack) Jansen

Emily Sopchak

**GUESTS**:

Wayne Carson

Diane Zelinsky –recording secretary -– VIA Teleconference

**Agenda**: Open Agenda

**Consideration of Minutes** –Motion was made by Mike Kupson and 2nd by Pattie Deer to accept the minutes from the April 12, 2021 meeting.

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

**Old Business:**

Tom shared a draft copy of a press release regarding the solicitation of names for display in The Veterans Hall of Honor which is in the foyer of the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. It will explain in detail who will be eligible to have their name displayed as entering the service from the City of Milford from August 2, 1990 to present in the Global War on Terror. There will be detailed instructions on the proof of service documents required and the address of the City Clerk’s office who will hold the submittals for the VCPC.

The VCPC will then enter the names into an excel database for submittal to be displayed. The vehicle to display these names right now is thought to be via 2 large screen TV’s. The time frame for submittal has not been determined and the Mayor has yet to approve the press release. There will need to be a large word of mouth campaign to publicize to those who may not have a way of hearing of this project and family and friends will be key to getting to those still serving.

The Milford Bank’s Milford Moves for Veterans will take place this year on Father’s Day June 20, 2021. The VSO representatives were asked to start asking for volunteers as the VCPC is requested to have a minimum of 20 volunteers to help direct the runners at various points along the course. The event will begin and end at Lisman Landing.

Memorial Day Weekend – A Press release was done and published in the Milford Mirror outlining the weekend’s events. Pattie Deer shared it to the VCPC’s Facebook page as well. Tom also did an interview with Channel 12 promoting the events and has reached out to invite Senator Richard Blumenthal.

Tom reported that the Milford’s Poet Laureate Joan Glass was asked to compose a poem for Memorial Day and will be read at the City Hall Ceremony.

VSO members were reminded to get the 5 wreaths ordered as soon as possible to have available for Sunday May 30th.

**Memorial Day Events**:

* Flag Placement – Saturday, May 29, 2021 beginning at 8:00 AM. Flags will be placed at Veterans gravesites at each of the Milford Cemeteries’ each hosted by a VSO. VSO representatives reminded to pick the flags up at 7:45 am at the Fowler Building

- Wreath laying ceremonies – Sunday, May 30,2021 at 10:00 am The names of those service members who have passed in the last two years will be read at the Doughboy statue before placing wreaths at the other war monuments up on the Green

- City Hall Ceremony – Sunday May, 30, 2021 at 2:00 PM- in person and also a Live streamed event – Tom Saadi the DVA Commissioner will be the Key Note speaker

**New Business:**

Frank Rodriquez will be submitting his BIO through Tom so it can be passed along to Mayor Blake and put to the Board of Alderman. He will be the new Representative of the VVA for the VCPC.

Next month’s meeting agenda will include discussion on how to distribute the funds donated from the Milford Moves event. The VSO representatives were asked to come with a list of distributions made in the past year. Since there are now 5 VSO’s in Milford this discussion is necessary to alter the previous distributions of funds for those VSO’s that do not already have a fixed award.

**For the Good of the Order**:

In the past month the VFW has had many events and the American Legion will be holding the annual Golf Tournament on Monday, May 17th.

Motion was made to adjourn by Pattie Deer and 2nd by Emily Sopchak

**Meeting adjourned at**: 8:08 pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Diane Zelinsky

Recording Secretary