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

**August 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Opening:** The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday August 9, 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

Vincent Zelinsky

Mike Kupson (via telephone)

Pattie Deer

John (Jack) Jansen

Frank Rodriguez

**ABSENT/EXCUSED**:

Emily Sopchak

**GUESTS**:

Justin Rosen – Chief of Staff to Mayor Ben Blake

James (Jay) Tranquilli – Alderman Liaison

Diane Zelinsky –recording secretary

**Agenda**: Open Agenda

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

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

**New Business:**

Tom invited Mayor Blake and the two Alderman members to attend this meeting to discuss the future of the commission as key member’s terms are up at the end of 2021 and there will be a lot of transition needed. At tonight’s meeting Chairman Flowers announced he would be moving out of state before the end of his term in December 2021. The current ordinance that created the VCPC requires members be residents of the city of Milford. There is no current Vice Chair that could assume the position. The Members were polled again as to possible replacements, either due to personal reasons or current time on the commission there are no viable candidates. Justin Rosen who attended in Mayor Blake’s absence and Jay Tranquilli also agreed with those in attendance that the VCPC must continue with the mission it was created for and took the action to meet with the mayor to discuss this situation. Pattie Deer suggested contacting Bill Kates, the original chairman of the VCPC back in 2013, to possibly step in as an interim chairman. Tom Flowers will contact him as he is familiar with the duties and responsibilities of Chairman as well as talk to the American Legion about a replacement to take his spot as that VSO’s representative.

It is the intention of the VCPC to hold a traditional Veterans Day Parade on November 7, 2021 at 2pm stepping off from Wasson Field. Jack Dougherty has accepted the invitation to be this year’s Grand Marshall and Guest Speaker. Mr. Dougherty was a member of the 2009 class inducted into the CT Veterans Hall of Fame. Each VSO member was given a copy of the thumb drive passed down from Christine Smith with instructions and forms for what is needed for the Parade. The invitation process should start no later than September 1. Pastor Ken Fellenbaum from the Wildermere Congregational Church needs to be contacted to be the Chaplain for the event. Pattie Deer took the action to post the upcoming event on the VCPC’s Facebook page.

The Wreath Laying ceremony will take place on November 11, 2021 at 11:00 am with each VSO presenting only 1 wreath at the Dough Boy monument.

Mike Kupson reported that the DAV representative that opens the Fowler Building for their meetings has noticed on more than one occasion that the alarm has not been set. It was discussed that the building has an old antiquated alarm system and perhaps it can be upgraded due to the volume of people that use the building. Also, the lack of available WIFI signal was discussed and Justin Rosen took note to see if that can’t be corrected since upgrades were made to other municipal properties.

**Old Business:**

Tom Flowers reported that the net proceeds from The Milford Bank Milford Moves for Veterans event that was held on June 20th are still not available. As soon as he has any updates, he will notify the Commission.

**For the Good of the Order**:

The American Legion Post 196 Annual Picnic is August 14, 2021 at $30.00 per person for the day’s event.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Kupson and 2nd by Jack Jansen

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

Respectfully Submitted by

Diane Zelinsky

Recording Secretary