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

**September 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Opening:** The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday September 13, 2021 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Bill Kates called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bill Kates - Interim Chairman

Vincent Zelinsky

Mike Kupson

Pattie Deer

John (Jack) Jansen

Emily Sopchak – (via telephone)

**ABSENT/EXCUSED**:

Tom Jackson

Frank Rodriguez

**GUESTS**:

Diane Zelinsky –recording secretary

**Agenda**: Open Agenda

**Consideration of Minutes** – Bill Kates read the minutes from the August 9th meeting and called for a motion to accept.

Motion was made by Pattie Deer and 2nd by Emily Sopchak – motion passed to accept the minutes as read.

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

**New Business:**

Bill Kates has joined as interim chairman. Tom Flowers has passed on many pieces of information and Bill will be going through them for the next meeting. Tom Jackson, who could not attend tonight’s meeting, is nominated to the commission and an update on approval by the Board of Alderman is pending. Tom will be the representative for the American Legion Post 196.

Discussion took place about changing the day of the monthly meeting to try and better accommodate schedules to allow for the best possible meeting attendance. It was determined that the 2nd Thursday of each Month would be the new meeting date starting October 14th. The Recording Secretary took the action to notify the City Clerk immediately in advance of the publication of the minutes so the website can be updated.

Discussion turned to the expected commission vacancies that are coming up at the end of December 2021. They are: Tom Flowers- (American Legion)- expected to be filled by Tom Jackson, Mike Kupson – (DAV). Mike has not advised who from is VSO may be a candidate at this time. Emily Sopchak – (VFW). Emily advised that she is interested in remaining on the commission and is willing to go through nomination and approval again if need be. Bill Kates reported that there are also a couple of other candidates to join the commission with more information to come on that.

The Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for 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. Mike Kupson presented a list from the flash drive that was provided by Tom Flowers in August of potential invitations that need to be sent. The assumption was made that Tom Flowers did not have the opportunity before he moved to send out any of the invitations to the dignitaries usually in attendance and that is a priority at this time so it can be put on their schedules. Bill Kates took an action to speak to the City Clerk about some possible IT support to help as there is a lot of documentation on this flash drive and the commission is in need of some training by a tech savvy individual. Emily also advised when she is be back in CT she would take a look at the flash drive and see if she could lend any of her expertise to the situation.

Pattie Deere indicated she has been approached by two groups one being the Jeep Club who would like to participate. Mike passed along the list of order of Divisions to Bill Kates. Details will be finalized at the October meeting in regards to the parade.

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. One point Bill brought up that he would like to see return was having the wreaths delivered the day of the parade and be at the monument and then on the 11th each VSO could replace them during the ceremony.

**Old Business:**

Mike Kupson took the lead and contacted Peter Berube regarding the Milford Moves check presentation. The date is set for Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 9:30 am on the Milford Green across from the bank. It should be a short ceremony and asked that each VSO have 2 members to accept their checks and that one person could be the VCPC representative.

**For the Good of the Order**:

The VFW will being having an 75th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 9th. Tickets are available for $35.00 each.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Vinny Zelinsky and 2nd by Pattie Deere

**Meeting adjourned at**: 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Diane Zelinsky

Recording Secretary