

**VETERANS, CEREMONY, AND
PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman W. Kates called the meeting to order at 7:17 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
Christopher Roberts
Russell Edwards

Absent/Excused: Thomas Flowers, Tim Mead

II. Consideration of Minutes

Minutes were accepted and filed at the previous meeting.

III. Public Comment/Questions

None.

IV. Chairman's Report:

a) Parades/Ceremonies – Chairman Kates stated the Committee needed to consider putting something in place for the Memorial Day Parade.

Vice Chairman Smith stated they also needed to purchase flags.

Chairman Kates commented he was not happy with the flags last year and their quality.

Vice Chairman Smith asked how many flags were purchased last year.

Commissioner Roberts asked if they receive a price break if purchased in large quantities.

Chairman Kates explained they received a discount for anything over 10 gross. He stated they usually purchase 32 gross. He stated he would contact Linda Natoli from the Veterans Preservation to see if they could get a count as to the number of veterans.

Vice Chairman Smith asked if it would be possible to get an update of the plot/site map for the grave sites.

Chairman Kates reiterated he would contact Ms. Natoli for information. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Edwards suggested this would be a great scout project, stating the scouts could take on the project of recovering some of the plots that are grown over with brush/shrubs.

Commissioner Roberts and Vice Chairman Smith agreed this would be a great endeavor for the scouts.

Commissioner Roberts also commented there is software for cemeteries. He stated the Commission could check to see if anyone has that software or perhaps consider purchasing it. A brief discussion ensued.

b) Building Maintenance – Chairman Kates stated he would defer his report regarding maintenance to next month. He also spoke regarding the parking issue here.

Vice Chairman Smith stated she received a letter from Patty Deer concerning parking on Tuesday nights. She stated Ms. Deer wrote in her letter that her members are receiving tickets on Tuesday nights and that they have been told by employees from SBC they have an agreement to park behind the Fowler Building.

Commissioner Roberts questioned who SBC has this purported agreement with. Discussion ensued regarding the parking difficulties.

Chairman Kates stated he would set up an appointment with the Mayor to discuss the parking issue along with some other matters of concern. He stated one of the other matters concerns the light on the flag pole.

Commissioner Roberts suggested a solar light for the flag pole would be an easy resolve.

Vice Chairman Smith and Commissioner Edwards both stated the American flag should always be illuminated at night and that they felt very strongly about it.

c) Building Usage – Vice Chairman Smith reported she received a call from a blind veteran who would like to use the Fowler Building for a sweet sixteen birthday party for his daughter on February 24, 2012. He stated there would be approximately 40 people in attendance and that they would like to use both floors as well as the kitchen. The time requested is 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. He also stated the party would be supervised by himself, his ex-wife and their 25 year old daughter. Vice Chairman Smith reviewed the rental rules for the Fowler Building.

Commissioner Roberts noted the DAV sponsors their semi-annual workshops in this building.

Chairman Kates stated he would recommend the Commission deny the request based on the fact it is for a private birthday function and also the request came from a non-resident. He also stated he did not want to set a precedent with allowing parties in the building.

Vice Chairman Smith pointed the language in the rental rules states “passive” activities.

Commissioner Roberts asked if the City has a list of people who use this building.

Chairman Kates reported he was unaware of any such list.

Commissioners' Smith and Roberts made and seconded a motion to deny the request for use of the Fowler Memorial Building on February 24, 2012 for private birthday party.

Motion carried 3 yes (Kates, Smith, Roberts) and 1 abstention (Edwards).

V. Unfinished Business

a) Cannon Placement – Chairman Kates recalled there had been some discussion of having a cannon in front of the Fowler Memorial Building. He stated at this time he would recommend against it and stated he would entertain a motion from the Commissioner.

Commissioners' Roberts and Smith made and seconded a motion not to go ahead with a cannon for the Fowler Memorial Building at this time.

Chairman Kates stated one of the issues would be with safety and concern with young children climbing on it, etc.

Commissioner Robert echoed the remarks of Chairman Kates.

Chairman Kates added this body does not have the capacity to take on this type of equipment, whether it be a cannon or tank. He noted another group wished to have a display, then the Commission could consider it.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business

a) Firing/Rifle Squad for ceremonies/parades. – Chairman Kates stated he had a discussion with Commissioner Flower regarding this issue and the possibility of having these squads for parades, burial detail, etc. He stated to his knowledge there is no one in Milford other than John D'Amical who has a musket.

Commissioner Roberts asked if this would be as parade weapons or firing.

Chairman Kates stated it is not a true weapon, but it could fire.

Vice Chairman Smith stated she would bring this topic to the Board of Directors at the VFW.

Commissioner Roberts stated he would bring this topic to the DAV as well and inquire as to what type of firing rifles they have for parades, etc.

Vice Chairman Smith reminded the Commission they need to start looking into the Memorial Day parade for the next meeting, i.e. list of dignitaries.

Commissioner Roberts added they need to have the information regarding flags and maps for the next meeting.

Commissioner Roberts stated he will check to see if the VFW Chapter wants to help organize the parade.

Chairman Kates commented as to the wreaths that he would like to see the Commission place a wreath at the Revolutionary War Monument and not just do it on Veterans Day, but Memorial Day as well.

VII. Announcements

None.

Being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Edwards and Smith made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Board Secretary