

VETERANS, CEREMONY AND PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 15, 2016

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, March 15, 2016 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman T. Flowers called the meeting to order at 7PM and asked those present to stand for the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Note: The February 2016 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

I. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT

Thomas Flowers, Chairman
Christine Smith, Vice Chairman
Pattie Deer
Russell Edwards

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Gregory Smith
John Jansen
Niles McKenzie

GUESTS PRESENT

Jorge Santiago – Milford Bank

- II. Milford Bank Proposition - Motion made by P. Deer to suspend regular business in favor of Jorge Santiago's presentation for Milford Bank's 5K Race entitled **Milford Moves for Veterans** on June 12, 2016 to benefit veterans organizations in Milford. Seconded by R. Edwards; motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued; expectation of income from corporate sponsors is \$9,000, with approximately 500 runners. They ask for about 20 volunteers total from our veteran's organizations to help with manning the booths and running stands at the race.

Milford Bank will allow us to create a Facebook event page for the 5K Race to advertise. Websites **RunningInTheUSA.com** and **milfordbank.com/inside-the-bank/milford-moves/** has more details.

The VCPC will determine an equitable distribution of the funds raised.

Motion made by C. Smith, seconded by P. Deer, to resume regular business. Motion passed unanimously.

- III. Consideration of Minutes – No February meeting held due to inclement weather.

- IV. Public Comment/Questions – None.

- V. Chairman's Report:

a) Founders Walk

- i. Chairman Flowers had a meeting with the committee. It appears the proposed plan for Founders Walk lighting will not be sufficient to adequately illuminate the rear doors of the Fowler Building. Chairman Flowers will work with Building Maintenance to provide proper lighting for all emergency exits.

b) Milford's Military Hall of Honor

- i. Chairman Flowers spoke with the City Clerk about identifying those veterans who entered the service from Milford from 2 August 1990 to the present.

- ii. Chairman Flowers spoke with Commissioner Sean Connelly with the VA about restoration of graves at Milford Cemetery, exploring any grant money that may be available. Still waiting for call back.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a) Service Dog from Milford Rotary – still open.
- b) Memorial Day Parade – Dates: Saturday, May 28 Flags on Graves at 8:30AM; Sunday, May 29 Wreath Laying at 9:45AM starting at City Hall; Parade at 2PM on the Green.
 - i. DMBA not receptive to change of date of the parade, will keep it on Sunday for now
 - ii. Fife and Drum might not make the wreath laying.
 - iii. Chairman Flowers to buy 40 gross of flags.
 - iv. Grand Marshall/Key-note speaker – CT Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, LTC Sean Connelly, has been officially invited to be the Grand Marshal and guest speaker for our Memorial Day parade.
- c) State Legislation SB 199 - SB 199 taken up by the Veterans Affairs Committee of the state legislature would have mandated that Veterans Day would be an official school holiday statewide. The bill was amended to allow individual school districts the discretion to hold classes on Veterans Day. However, schools that remain open on Veterans Day will be mandated to hold events commemorating veterans to include inviting veterans into the schools. The bill cleared the Veterans Affairs Committee unanimously and awaits a potential floor vote by the General Assembly.

VII. New Business

- a) POW/MIA Flag on Green very tattered – Rotary made commitment to replace American Flag; was wondering if that included POW/MIA
- b) Home Depot Project for Vet in Need – R. Edwards is looking to make a case for the program and will send info to Chairman Flowers to submit.
- c) Flags on the Green – Chairman Flowers will look into replacing them.

VIII. Good of the Order

- a) VFW 7788 Day for a Hospitalized Vet on April 17; requesting donations for backpacks sent home with the veterans by April 16.

IX. Possible Agenda Topics

None.

Being no further business to discuss, C. Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by P. Deere. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Next meeting will be April 11, 2016 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Smith
Secretary Pro Tem