

**VETERANS, CEREMONY, AND
PARADE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 8, 2013**

The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, July 8, 2013 in the Fowler Memorial Building, 45 New Haven Avenue, Milford. Chairman W. Kates called the meeting to order at 7:05 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
Russell Edwards
Thomas Flowers
Christopher Roberts

GUESTS PRESENT

Wayne Carson

Absent/Excused: Tim Mead

II. Consideration of Minutes – June 10, 2013

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Flowers made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment/Questions

None.

IV. Chairman's Report:

a) Parades/Ceremonies

Chairman Kates announced that Channel 8 filed the Independence Day Events and he would like to see if we can get a copy of it.

b) Building Maintenance

a. Lights are no longer on the flag.

c) Building Usage – No Report.

V. Unfinished Business

a) Bill Reimbursements

i. Chairman Kates informed commission that the City of Milford new policy now requires W-2 Tax forms for reimbursements, will ask Mayor how these reimbursements reflect on our taxes

b) Parking Permits

- i. Mr. Wayne Carson provided an old Fowler Building Parking Permit that Ms. Betsey Wright showed the Mayor and was able to get Parking Permits for the DAV Chapter 15. Mr. Roberts believes we should be able to get them, as well.

c) Documenting Veterans Graves

- i. Mr. Roberts will start working on getting the DB from the cemeteries again from another source.

d) Independence Day Parade

- i. Mr. Edwards was disappointed with the attendance in both the participants and the attendees. Chairman Kates stated there was only him at the Liberty Rock ceremony. Not many people marched from City hall to the Old Milford Cemetery, but people did go there to await the official.

Commission discussed how to better promote these patriotic events to increase participation and attendance. Discussion about starting our invites 3 months earlier and inviting the Milford Band/Choir to play 3-4 songs at the Independence Day event, or ask the school music/choir department to participate.

VI. New Business

a) Memorial Day Flags

- a. Comments were made on the Memorial Day Flags regarding the poor quality where the rain warped the staffs allowing for them to touch the ground and get mud spattered, or broke altogether when the weeds were tended to.
- b. We need to get a better quality of flags for next year's Memorial Day Flags on Graves event or go back up to the 12" x 18" flags. At 40 gross, the cost will be much more than previously (we paid .74 each for 8" x 10" flags this year). Chairman Kates will go back to the company we ordered from to complain about the quantity and to see if this can be alleviated. Mr. Roberts will try to contact another flag company out of North Carolina.
- c. Chairman Kates got a call from a gentleman who said that his Dad (John Plachino) did not receive a flag in St. Mary's Cemetery. Chairman Kates apologize to him and met him at the Fowler Building and gave him a flag to put on the grave.

b) Veterans Day

- a. Wreath Laying on Monday, November 11, 2013 at 11:00am starting at City Hall
- b. Parade on Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 10:30am with Line-up at 9:30am at Daniel Wasson Field
- c. Parade Theme to be decided at next meeting where the commission will entertain ideas.
 - i. Some suggestions by the commission were Revolutionary War, and Simon Lake's Submarines
- d. Notification to public about the change of time for the Parade which will be 4 ½ hours earlier.

VII. Good of the Order

- a) On July 11th, the DAR/Scouts will be holding a Flag Retirement.
- b) VFW 9460 will have their annual picnic bash on July 13th at 6pm until whenever.
- c) VFW District 1 will have their annual picnic on August 11 at 10:30am to 6pm.
- d) American Legion 196 will have their annual picnic on August 24 at 10am.
- e) Fisher House will have a Half-Marathon, go to fisherhousect.org for more details.
- f) Bristol Harley Davidson will have their 110th anniversary ride to Rockette Stadium on September 1st, \$30 rider.

- g) Fisher House Fundraiser with Fred Astaire Studios, Dancing with our Heroes on November 10th, \$150/plate dinner at the Hartford Convention Center.
- h) Milford Oyster Festival on August 17, VVA and DAV will each have a car, and the Oyster Festival Committee will be using the building again.

VII. Announcements

- a) American Legion was robbed.
- b) Fisher House CT exceeded their goal of \$60,000 in the month of June through their partnership with the ShopRite stores in Stratford, Milford, West Haven and Hamden.

Being no further business to discuss, the informal meeting adjourned at 8:55pm (Mr. Flowers motioned adjournment, seconded by Mrs. Smith, motion carried unanimously).

Next meeting will be August 12, 2013 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Smith
Secretary Pro Tem