

**Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission Regular Meeting
January 13,2020 Meeting Minutes**

Opening: The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 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
Mike Kupson
Vincent Zelinsky
John (Jack) Jansen

ABSENT/EXCUSED:

Russ Edwards Sr
Wayne Carson
Pattie Deer

GUESTS:

Diane Zelinsky –recording secretary

Agenda: Open Agenda

Consideration of Minutes –minutes of last meeting were distributed for review and a motion to accept was made by Mike Kupson and 2nd by Vinny Zelinsky

Old Business:

Vinny Zelinsky reported that he was officially sworn in this month for his 2-year term on the VCPC. Tom Reported that Pattie Deer will be making arrangements to be sworn in at the City Clerk's office as well.

Tom reported that he will continue to reach out to the nominee to take Christine Smith's position on the Commission.

Mike Kupson opened up a discussion about the Veterans Hall of Fame project. This was discussed as a major undertaking and very labor intensive as it would include those involved in service from Milford during the time period of December 1990 to current. How to obtain the information and vet it for authenticity was a major question, in the past the newspaper was a way to solicit that type of information. Eric Muth presented this project in 2014 and no updates are available at this time. Funds were put aside for this project and remain available. Further research will need to be done on this and past VCPC minutes of public record from October 13,2014 will need to be located.

New Business:

Tom reported that he will be extending an invitation to Thomas Saadi, the current CT Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner, to be the Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day 2020 parade.

Tom also reported that the commission needs to appoint a Vice Chair to the commission, since Christine Smith's departure there is not a designated member.

For the Good of the Order:

Mike Kupson presented that he has attended a few Veterans Coffee House events. These are monthly events that usually take place at the Wallingford Senior Center or in Cheshire featuring guest speakers on a variety of topics.

Tom Flowers brought up Operation: Warm Hearts sponsored by Ocean State Job Lot, who have donated new winter coats for CT Veterans. Two upcoming distributions will be Sunday, Jan 19th at the VFW Post 7788, 422 Naugatuck Avenue from 1 to 4 pm and Sunday, Feb 9th at the Fowler Building, 45 New Haven Avenue from 2 to 5 pm. Applicable id's accepted are DD214, Military Retired ID, VA ID, CT Driver's license with Flag, USAA members, American Legion, DAV, VFW, AMVETS, VAA, Jewish War Veterans, Marine Corp League, Order of the Purple Heart or National Sojourners Membership cards.

Also, Monday, Jan 20th there is a program being held at 7pm at the Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church on the green. Presentation will be made by Erik Johnson who led a 2-week program with 15 CT high school students to the French village of Seicheprie, the site of the first German offensive against American troops. They worked along side French students to restore and preserve a section of the trenches once occupied by Connecticut soldiers who fought there on April 20-21 1918.

Meeting adjourned at: 8.00 pm (Motion made by Vinny Zelinsky; 2nd by Mike Kupson)

Respectfully Submitted by
Diane Zelinsky
Recording Secretary

