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

**November 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Opening:** The Veterans, Ceremony and Parade Commission held their Regular Meeting on Monday November 9, 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

Pattie Deer

John (Jack) Jansen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED**:

Russ Edwards Sr

**GUESTS**:

Wayne Carson

Diane Zelinsky –recording secretary -– VIA Teleconference

**Agenda**: Open Agenda

**Consideration of Minutes** –Omission was made to make a motion to accept the minutes from the October 12, 2020 meeting.

**Old Business:**

This was a brief meeting held between the Memorial Day Virtual Ceremony on November 8th and the Wreath Laying on November 11th

Discussion took place about how pleased Tom Flowers was with the ceremony at City Hall and had yet to view the entire thing on YouTube but was looking forward to it. All the VCPC members present expressed what a success it seemed to be from the patriotic concert before hand by the Milford Concert Band the guest speaker BG Ralph Hedenberg to our Guest from NH Mr Lougee. It was also noted those elected officials that were present including Senator Richard Blumenthal, who is a strong Veterans advocate and always seems to find the time to attend Milford’s events when asked. It was a moving moment when Taps was played as the WWI American Flag of Mr Lougee’s grandfather was lowered and folded and presented back to him.

Tom was going to send out formal Thank you notes to those guests.

The commission then went over the finalized plans again for the traditional wreath laying ceremony for November, 11, 2020 at 11 am and the VSO’s will only need to provide a single wreath to be placed at the Doughboy monument at City Hall. Tom Flowers and Mayor Blake will make remarks that day. It was requested that each VSO limit the number of members attending to 3 to 4 only and masks and social distancing must be adhered to. He requested those who are to attend be on site no later than 10:45 am.

Discussion turned again to building use and Tom has been getting some additional requests including that from a woman looking to use it on Thursdays except for the 1st of the month to help children with distance learning. He mentioned to her that NO WIFI is available but if they could come with their own hotspot it could work and was approved.

Tom reported that the Christ Presbyterian Church group is still working to use Fowler Building for Sunday Services but it had interfered with the already established Community Support Group that also uses the building for Sunday morning meetings at 8 am to about 10:30. Due to the size of that Tom has allowed them to utilize both the upstairs and downstairs to be in compliance with State and City guidance.

**New Business**:

In regards to next year’s Memorial Day Parade, which we fully intend to be able to have in 2021. Tom feels he has a couple of candidates in mind for the Grand Marshall and a strong choice could be Jack Dougherty, a member of the Marine Honor Guard who was present at the Sunday Veteran’s Day ceremony.

Tom indicated that he fully intends that by the next DAV meeting scheduled for December to have the new replacement refrigerator purchased and installed on site at the Fowler Building.

Pattie Deere made mentioned that there have been occasions where chairs have been stacked up against their office door and Tom noted he would remind those using the building not to do that going forward and that chairs must be stored away properly.

**For the Good of the Order**:

Motion was made to adjourn by Jack Jensen and 2nd by Pattie Deere

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

Respectfully Submitted by

Diane Zelinsky

Recording Secretary