

**TOWN OF BOLTON
VETERANS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING **MINUTES**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022, 1:30 P.M.**

Present: Kathy Walsh, Barry Stearns, Jim Clark, Paul Toomey and Ernie Richardson.
Others present: Suellen Kamara, Kathy McCavanagh and Pam Sawyer.
Not present: Gregory Carini and Alexander Dumas.

1. Call to Order.

K. Walsh called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a. November 3, 2022 – Regular Meeting Motions.
- b. November 3, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission make corrections in the name of Barry Stearns in the motions and in the minutes, item 9 (other), "Discussion Regarding Veterans Tax Reliever." The word is "changing," not "charging."

By: B. Stearns

Seconded: P. Toomey

Voting:

For: Kathy Walsh, Barry Stearns, Jim Clark, Paul Toomey, and Ernie Richardson.

Against: None

Absent: Two.

3. Update of Cemetery Review by Boy Scouts.

K. McCavanagh stated that the full list of Veterans in the Quarryville Cemetery are located in the packet with a photo of each stone. The Boys Scouts are in the process of reviewing and collecting the same Veterans information for the Bolton Center Cemetery. The Boy Scouts initially stated they would try to have this accomplished by the middle of December.

Action: KM is waiting for an update on this project and will follow up if necessary.

K. Walsh would like to know who is in charge of the Boy Scout list, and McCavanagh informed that the head of Boys Scouts is Chris Duffy and P. Sawyer shared his number.

4. Update on Medallions for Cemeteries.

K. McCavanagh reviewed medallion prices from her research and included them in the packet. Amazon prices were the best, and the price (attached to the packet) is for aluminum medallions. The bronze medallions are more expensive -double the price.

P. Sawyer stated that the town has a cemetery fund, and if the commission would like, they can raise money to put medallions on each veteran's graves.

K. Walsh asked for discussion and that J. Clark initially had requested medallions and flags be placed in the cemetery.

J. Clark mentioned that he had paid for some medallions previously and there was a gentleman who always takes them down. K. McCavanagh will ask J. Butrymovich (Facilities Supervisor) if he knows the name of this individual.

P. Sawyer inquired whether the commission would like to create a marker with just a veteran's sign or one that shows which war they served in. J. Clark thinks it is better to just put veterans in the markers. K. Walsh agreed because the commission would need so many different individualized markers for each veteran. There was

discussion that they could trial this to see if theft would be an issue. The commission will need to know how many veterans' graves they will need the medallions to be placed. P. Sawyer asked Jim what his vision for the markers, and he believes that for medallions and flags it's a year-round project.

5. Consider and Act on a Monetary Request for Next Year's Budget Proposal.

The members will list out what the commission will need for the next year and decide the budget in the next meeting.

Action: All members to bring forward about the ideas for what should be requested in the budget.

6- Discussion Regarding Street Naming.

K. McCavanagh explained that the street is currently not named and is part of town property. The commission can request the area of the road to be named. If they can't do that, K. McCavanagh suggested putting up a sign that said "Veterans Way."

The commission requests a letter written to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission give the chairman the power to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting the change of the name of the street to Veterans Way.

By: B. Stearns

Seconded: E. Richardson

Voting:

For: Kathy Walsh, Barry Stearns, Jim Clark, Paul Toomey, and Ernie Richardson.

Against: None

Absent: Two.

Action: K. Walsh to write letter to the Selectman.

7. Discussion regarding Veterans Tax Relief.

B. Stearns brought to the commission's attention that, according to CT Public Act No. 22-34 Sec. 33 (Veteran Property Tax Exemption), it's a town decision whether or not to raise the actual exemption of \$4,500. B. Stearns thinks the maximum the board will consider is \$10,000.

Motion: I move that Barry Stearns will bring to the next Selectmen's meeting the possibility of raising veteran tax exemption beginning in July 2023.

By: J. Clark

Seconded: E. Richardson

Voting:

For: Kathy Walsh, Barry Stearns, Jim Clark, Paul Toomey, and Ernie Richardson.

Against: None

Absent: Two.

Action: B. Stearns to present at the next meeting

8. Name and Dedication of Bench.

The Bolton P.T.A. came to the Selectman and requested a bench to be named after Sargent Michael Clarke, who passed away while on active duty in July. P. Sawyer provided a list of benches located throughout town.

Action: The commission is to review benches at the Town Hall, the Gazebo and on the Veterans Green to make a recommendation for the best place and what should be stated on the placque.

9. Discussion regarding Memorial Day Parade Coordination.

B. Stearns requested a list of what is already in place for the Memorial Day Parade at the previous meeting so the commission could review responsibilities. P. Sawyer requested that he contact John Toomey for further clarification.

Action: B. Stearns to report at the next meeting.

10. Any additional Topics from Preliminary Meeting.

- Adding a monument at the Veterans Memorial for other wars that somebody had
 - Names missing from the memorial that need to be corrected.
 - Regarding names missing at the Veterans Memorial, P. Sawyer believes it's better to put two small stones, saying "in memory of those who served in the "war," with no names on them, so, all veterans are recognized. Or if the commission would like to have more ideas, they can go to other towns and see what they have done.
- K. Walsh called Carrie (the Senior and Social Services Director) to see what veterans need help with in the town work with the social veterans is more occasional, such as with paperwork, applying for benefits, medications, etc.

Action: K. Walsh will set up a time for Carrie to come in and talk to the committee.

11. Other.

P. Sawyer suggested putting an item on the agenda to get someone from the department of Veterans Affair and have them talk about what kind of programs they have.

K. Walsh believes that Liz Waters (the town clerk) and Carrie Concatelli should also come to one of the meetings to explain what they are doing for the veterans in town.

Action: K. Walsh will call Liz Waters to come to discussion regarding the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 27-135, which explains the statutes regarding Veterans. The statute was passed to all members.

Actions: All members to review statute for the next meeting for the next meeting.

10. Adjournment.

The Veterans Commission was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. by Paul Toomey.

Respectfully Submitted

Suellen Kamara

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.