

**TOWN OF BOLTON
VETERANS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING **MINUTES**
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023, 1:30 P.M.**

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

1. Call to Order.

K. Walsh called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a. December 8, 2022 – Regular Meeting Motions.
- b. December 8, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission approve the motions and minutes.

By: B. Stearns

Seconded: P. Toomey

Voting: For: Kathy Walsh, Barry Stearns, Jim Clark and Paul Toomey

Against: None

Absent: Three.

3. Update of Cemetery Review by Boy Scouts.

The Boy Scouts have not provided an update on the cemetery. K. Walsh and S. Kamara will contact Chris Duff, the head of the Boy Scouts before the next meeting and the discussion will continue.

4. Update on Medallions for Cemeteries.

When the Boy Scouts return with an update on the Bolton Center Cemetery, the commission will be more knowledgeable about what to do with the medallions. K. Walsh has made a book with a list of veterans from Quarryville Cemetery, and once it is complete, she will add the list from Bolton Center Cemetery and leave it at the Town Clerk as a research project. P. Sawyer mentioned that the Town of Bolton publishes a biweekly newsletter and gave the idea to the commission to put the fund for the medallions in there or attach a letter to the tax bill to inform the citizens about this initiative.

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

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission's budget for July 2023 to June 2024 be \$1,000.

Administrative Support (Clerk) – \$200.00

Postage -250.00

Signage (Veterans Way) - 400.00

Other – 150.00

By: P. Toomey

Seconded: B. Stearns

Voting: Kathy Walsh, Barry Stearns, Jim Clark, and Paul Toomey.

Against: None

Absent: Three.

6- Street Naming Update.

K. Walsh informed that the board of selectmen had given its approval for the street's name change. The commission was asked by P. Sawyer if they would want to send a press release to the Journal Inquirer announcing that the request to rename the street Veterans Way had been granted. The Veterans Commission agreed to the concept of a press release, and they also want to post it on the website.

7. Discussion regarding Veterans Tax Relief.

B. Stearns went to the Board of Selectmen to discuss the possibility of raising the Veterans Exemption to \$10,000, and the Board of Selectmen stated that they needed more information to make a decision about it. The Board also thinks that if the raise happens, it should be by income; they also advised B. Stearns that next time he should sign the request in the name of the commission. B. Stearns found more information about the tax exemption and brought it to the commission (attached to the supplemental packet). B. Stearns also believes that the commission should return to the board of selectmen with this new information because the exemption has not changed in 20 years.

8. Name and Dedication of Bench.

After the commission inspected them, B. Stearns thinks the bench should be positioned near the memorial. Due to his skill in signage, P. Sawyer proposed that B. Stearns take action to assist with the bench. B. Stearns agreed to lead this project. K. Walsh questioned the commission about their preference for what to write on the bench, and B. Stearns stated that it needs to be simple.

9. Memorial Day Parade Coordination.

R. Morra sent a list of things he used to do before for the Memorial Day parade. P. Sawyer stated that the commission can decide whether or not to continue doing what is on the list. P. Sawyer suggested the commission come up with a subcommittee to help them with the parade. K. Walsh believes it will be helpful if someone who organized the parade before comes to explain a little bit about this event. R. Morra joined the meeting and briefly explained what the items meant. R. Morra will get in contact with the previous organizer and get all the contacts that the commission will need. B. Stearns will get in contact with John Butrymovich to ask about the flags, and K. Walsh will review the prices.

10. CT General Statutes Review regarding Veterans Commission.

Not discussed.

11. Liz Waters Presentation on Role.

K. Walsh could not get in contact with Liz Waters and she will keep trying.

12. Any additional Topics from Preliminary Meeting.

Not Discussed.

13. Other

Not Discussed.

14. Adjournment.

The Veterans Commission was adjourned at 2.51 p.m. by B. Stearns.

Respectfully Submitted

Suellen Kamara

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

Veteran's Commission Budget

Town of Bolton-Submitted: January 2023

FY: July 2023

Line Item	Amount Requested	Comments	Total Requested
SALARY			
Admin Support	200.00	This is for special meetings that require administrative support	
NON-Salary			
Postage	250.00	Mailings for Fundraising for Medallions, and possible items to honor veterans	
Signage	400.00	Signage for Veterans Way	
Other	150.00		
		Total	1,000.00

January 10, 2023

Board of Selectmen

Town of Bolton

222 Bolton Center Road

Bolton, CT 06043

Dear Board Members:

Follow up on the presentation on Veteran's Property Tax Relief

1. New Income Related Tax Exemption

CT Public Act No. 22-34 Sec. 33

The Veteran's Commission request that you adopt the Veterans Property Tax Exemption under CT Public Act No. 22-34 Sec. 33 for the fiscal year 2023-24.

2. Existing Veteran's Property Tax Relief

CGS 12-81

The Veteran's Commission request that you increase the current \$4,500.00 exemption to \$10,000 for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The existing \$4,500 exemption has been in place for at least 20 years without any increase.

If you find it necessary, please adopt the five year phase in that was outlined in the "Chart of impact on Property Tax Revenue" presented to you on January 3rd.

Due to confusion about state reimbursement under CGS 12-81 I did some more research and discovered that, in fact the state does not reimburse towns for the mandated \$1,500 veterans property tax relief under CGS 12-81(19) & CGS 12-81(g). Please disregard the chart that was provided to you on January 3rd titled "Chart of impact on property tax revenue after state reimbursement".

Please contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Barry Stearns

Vice Chairman of the Veteran's Commission

(860)466-0540