

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
VETERANS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING- MINUTES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, 1:30 P.M.**

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

**1. Call to Order.**

K. Walsh called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

a. June 1, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Motion:** I move that the Veterans Commission approve the minutes.

By: E. Richardson

Seconded: P. Toomey

Voting: Kathy Walsh, Paul Toomey, Ernie Richardson, B. Stearns, and Gregory Carini.

Against: None

Absent: Two.

**3. Update on Plaque and Dedication of Bench.**

The plaque has been installed for a few weeks now, and the commission is looking into planning a ceremony for the family and friends on Memorial Day next year. The commission will discuss this at their next meeting. **Action: P. Sawyer will contact the family for these wishes for the dedication of the bench, Report at the next meeting.**

**4. Tax Relief Update.**

P. Sawyer gave the update that some discussions occurred at the Board of Selectmen meeting, and it was decided that the taxpayers would vote for the veteran's tax relief at the next referendum. P. Sawyer also said that if the commission would like more updates, they can ask for an item on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meetings.

**Action: K. Walsh will email Bob Morra and B. Stearns will review this.**

**5. CT. General Statutes.**

K. Walsh stated that Bob Morra was going to talk to the town lawyer but never heard back.

**Action: K. Walsh will email him again.**

**6. Flag Box.**

K. Walsh emailed Chris Duffy about the flag box but hasn't received any response yet.

**Action: K. Walsh will check again with C. Duffy.**

**7. Review Letter for Election of Chair/Vice Chair**

Liz Waters, the Town Clerk, explained that due to the commission's recent formation, they don't have to elect a new chair or vice chair until July 2024.

## **8. Memorial Day Parade Coordination**

A task list was distributed to all members to review. K. Walsh said for the next Memorial Day celebration, it would be better if the commission spearheads a meeting in February 2024 with the leaderships of the town departments to go over the task list.

## **Movement of the agenda items**

### **11. Other**

K. Walsh told the veterans that Alexander Dumas had resigned due to moving away. P. Sawyer said that he needs to email [hr@boltonct.gov](mailto:hr@boltonct.gov) a resignation letter. B. Stearns stated that once the resignation letter is submitted to the town hall, the commission should put an advertisement saying they are looking for a new member on the town media. **Action:** K. Walsh will email A. Dumas, and G. Carini will approach a possible new member.

The Senior Center will have its annual Veterans' Luncheon, and they would like to have a town veteran speak at the event; the commission will look for someone. **Action:** G. Carini will approach L. Rudolph.

### **9. Medallions for Cemetery**

The commission talked about the possibility of holding a fundraiser to raise money for the cemetery's medallions. K. Walsh reminded them of the cost of metal medallions, which will be around \$7,000, and plastic medallions, which are just a thousand dollars cheaper. The veterans will talk more about it in their following meetings.

### **10. Review of Monuments on the Green/ Report from Sub-Committee**

P. Sawyer shared with the committee that she would like to place two more monuments on the town green. K. Walsh shared that next to the cemetery there is a monument; she also shared pictures. G. Carini believes that placing another monument at the Town Green will be cheaper than buying the flags. The commission will explore this idea more. **Action:** G. Carini and B. Stearns offered to look at the monument cost for the next meeting.

### **11. Other**

K. Walsh reminded the commission that the Fire Department will have its annual 9/11 ceremony on Monday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Department.

**Motion:** I move that the Veterans Commission decide to change their meeting time to 9:30 a.m., starting with their next meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

By: G. Carini.

Seconded: P. Toomey

Voting: Kathy Walsh, Paul Toomey, Ernie Richardson, B. Stearns, and Gregory Carini.

Against: None

Absent: Two.

### **12. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m. by B. Stearns.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Suellen Kamara.*

**TOWN OF BOLTON  
VETERANS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023, 9:30 A.M.**

Present: Kathy Walsh, Paul Toomey, Gregory Carini, Linda Rudolph, and Barry Stearns  
Others present: Suellen Kamara and Bill Philips.  
Not present: Jim Clark and Ernie Richardson.

**1. Call to order**

K. Walsh called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. September 7, 2023 – Regular meeting minutes  
Due to changes, the commission was unable to approve the minutes, and October and September will need approval at the next meeting.

**3. Update on Dedication of Bench**

4. P. Sawyer reached out to the family and the bench may be dedicated next Memorial Day. This will be reviewed later. No action required by the commission at this time.

**5. Tax relief update**

Bob Morra needs to provide an update. K. Walsh e-mailed him previously and no response yet. Linda proceeded to ask for the background on tax relief, and K. Walsh and B. Stearns explained the tax exception proposal. The committee needs follow-up where the process is.

**Action:** K. Walsh will follow-up with B. Morra regarding attending the next meeting to inform committee where we are with process.

**6. Ct. General statutes**

B. Morra needs to give an update on this. He was going to meet with the town attorney and provide information to the committee regarding legal responsibilities according to CT. Statutes.

**Action:** K. Walsh will follow-up with B. Morra.

**7. Flag box**

No update received and Town Hall states no information as to a follow-up. will need to place a follow-up call. A boy scout will be building a wooden box that will be used as a drop box for old flags and developing a system for the disposal ceremony/disposal for the American Flags.

**Action:** Kathy Walsh will follow-up call with Chris Duffy.

**8. Review of monuments on the Green/Report from sub-committee**

This was a discussion about installing new monuments for the two wars that are currently not represented. This idea was brought forth by a community member. The current concept is to have one monument that represents the two wars. A proposed design of the new monument was shown to the commission members By. B. Stearns. This monument would be in place of trying to

purchase medallions for all the graves which would be closer to 6-8 thousand dollars for the required amount. Instead of medallions, The proposed wording was discussed by the committee. **Action:** L. Rudolph will research the wars for accuracy. B. Stearns and G. Carini will obtain approximate pricing to discuss at the next meeting.

**9. Update on new member**

New member Linda is here for her first meeting, she has served eight years in the Navy. Welcome Linda.

**10. Memorial Day parade coordination**

The parade book was shared with the committee. This booklet has the general directions for the parade and the ceremony, A complete booklet was given to the Town Hall to keep for a reference. The chairman of the committee has a second booklet. Suellen proposed putting the booklet on the website, though personal information will be redacted in order to protect people's personal information.

**Actions:** K. Walsh will be sending an electronic version to Suellen Kamara.

**11. Other**

- a. Any new agenda items. No members had anything to put on the agenda.
- b. Speaker for Veterans' Day  
Linda will be speaking at the Veterans' Day luncheon; the committee will need to respond if they want to go to the luncheon.
- c. Annual Report  
Kathy had a draft of the Commission's annual report and asked other committee members if there was anything that they would like to add. All members to bring any changes for the next meeting.
- c. Bolton Scarecrow contest was discussed since we were invited at a late time and the commission unanimously stated it was not appropriate to participate in. It was not the right venue.

**12. Adjourn**

Kathy Walsh put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** A motion proposed to adjourn the Veterans' Committee was made.

**1<sup>st</sup> moved:** Barry Stearns

**2<sup>nd</sup> moved:** Paul Toomey

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 A.M. on October 5, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Hull

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