

**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.

Action: K. Walsh and S. Kamara will contact Chris Duff, the head of the Boy Scouts for an update.

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 put a book together with a list of veterans from Quarryville Cemetery. Once it is completed, she will add the list from Bolton Center Cemetery and leave it at the Town Clerk for reference. 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 them 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.

Action: P. Sawyer will do press release.

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.

Action: Barry Stearns will write a letter to selectman with additional information.

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.

Action: Next meeting decide on wording for bench

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.

Action: 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.

10. CT General Statues Review regarding Veterans Commission.

Not discussed.

11. Liz Waters Presentation on Role.

K. Walsh contacted Liz Waters and she is waiting for a different date.

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.