

**TOWN OF BOLTON
VETERANS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING **MINUTES**
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023, 1:30 P.M.**

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

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Approval of Minutes:

a. January 5, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes.

Action: K. Walsh would like to add actions to the minutes.

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

By: K. Walsh

Seconded: P. Toomey

Voting: Kathy Walsh, Jim Clark, Paul Toomey, Ernie Richardson and Gregory Carini.

Against: None

Absent: Two.

Movement of agenda items.

4. Update on the change of Street Name.

Lance would like to understand what the members want for the signage. R. Morra said that the board of selectmen thinks that instead of an artificial street sign, the signage needs to be unique. Lance stated that in order to be unique, the sign should be blue and double-sided. P. Toomey stated that the sign shouldn't have any apostrophes. It will take 4-6 weeks for the sign to be completed after ordering.

Actions: Lance will obtain proof from the company and send to K. Walsh to review. He will then order the sign

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission decide on a blue, double-sided sign with a capital "V" and lowercase "eterans" letters, as well as a capital "W" and lowercase "ay" letters.

By: P. Toomey

Seconded: J. Clark

Voting: Kathy Walsh, Jim Clark, Paul Toomey, Ernie Richardson and Gregory Carini.

Against: None

Absent: Two

3. Review of submitted Next Year's Budget.

Submitted budget as sent to Selectmen was passed out.

No action was taken.

5. Update on the request for Veterans Tax Relief.

There is no update on the follow-up letter that B. Stearns sent to the Board of Selectmen. B. Morra said that the selectmen will form a subcommittee meeting after the budget season to discuss and review proposal/request. He also shared that if any action is taken, it may be through a program, and the increases may be partial.

Action: K. Walsh will email B. Stearns with this information.

6. Name and Dedication of Bench.

K. Walsh shared information and prices for the plaque's bench that B. Stearns provided. B. Morra commented that if the commission wants a plaque that no one is going to steal, it is better to go with cast aluminum. K. Walsh shared that she emailed John Butrymovich to take the bushes out, and he will do it as soon as it warms up.

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission decide that the bench record is going to be:

In Memory of
Staff Sergeant Michael Clark
U.S ARMY

By: K. Walsh

Seconded: J. Clark

Voting: Kathy Walsh, Jim Clark, Paul Toomey, Ernie Richardson and Gregory Carini.

Against: None

Absent: Two

7. Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony Coordination.

K. Walsh updated that B. Stearns went to talk with Kristen Heckt to discuss school participation in the parade. K. Walsh also talked to Bruce Dixon; they can use the firehouse if there is inclement weather, and the fire department will take care of closing the road with the state police. K. Walsh talked to Chris Duffy, and they will be participating in the parade. The commission just needs to verify the flags; K. Walsh emailed John, and he will order the flags. B. Morra stated that the commission also needs a Space Force flag. K. Walsh contacted the Adjunct Generals office and received the paperwork to request a Fly-over on Memorial Day. This will be completed and mailed to the Pentagon. Girl scouts have been contacted and the Resident Trooper has been contacted via the Troop and an e-mail. Still waiting for response.

Actions: B. Morra will contact John Toomey. K. Walsh will email the church to ask about the pastor regarding the prayers at the ceremony. The commission will ask B. Stearns if he wants to be the MC, and if he doesn't, B. Morra will be a backup. The commission will contact at least two veterans and ask them if they want to be part of the parade. This discussion will continue at the next meeting. P. Sawyer will be responsible for filling out the form for the General's Office and sending it over to Washington, D.C. The commission still needs to identify the person responsible for lining up the parade. The new flag for the US Space Force needs to be clarified at the next meeting.

Movement of agenda items.

9. Medallions for Cemeteries.

K. Walsh talked to Chris Duffy, and the boy scouts have completed the review of the Bolton Center Cemetery, They are still in the process of putting everything together, and by the next meeting, the commission should

know how many veterans are in both cemeteries. K. Walsh had some questions about the mailing out of the request for donations in the tax bills, and B. Morra explained that if there are donations, they will be separated from the taxes and can be mailed to the Town Hall. And also, there are other ways to request these donations, such as through the town bulletin or a press release.

Action: Follow-up at the next meeting.

8. CT General Statutes Review regarding Veterans Commission.

K. Walsh reviewed the CT general statutes regarding the establishment of a Veterans Commission. Question as to where the Commission's role is related to Town employees who are identified as contact person. K. Walsh commented that Manchester has two employers that take care of the veteran's projects/affairs in town. Many places when there is an advisory committee the employees are on the committee. Liz Waters is the person in town responsible for things listed on the general statutes, and the Bolton Veterans Commission is an advisory to Liz Waters.

Action: B. Morra will bring to the Selectmen and with the town attorney for discussion.

10. Other.

K. Walsh commented that there needs to be a system to dispose of American Flags. Currently the Town of Bolton has multiple flags on their property and residents have flags to dispose of. J. Clark commented that years ago, the town used to have a ceremony to burn those flags; this can be an idea. K. Walsh brought up the idea to approach the Boy Scouts to see if they would be willing to develop a system for disposal and a box for the Town Hall to place all flags in one spot. The commission believes that the build of the box is a potential project for the boy scouts. Bob Morra agreed that this was a good idea for the Town Hall to have a box. K. Walsh also reported that they Army/Navy Club in Manchester said we can leave them by their back door and they will take care of them. The V.F.W. was called also but call was rerouted to someone who could not answer the questions.

Action: K. Walsh will email Chris Duffy with some models of boxes and ask him if this is a potential project for the Boy Scouts or an Eagle Scout.

11. Adjournment.

The Veterans Commission was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. by K. Walsh.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suellen Kamara

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