

**TOWN OF BOLTON
VETERANS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, April 6, 2023, 1:30 P.M.**

Present: Kathy Walsh, Barry Stearns, Al Dumas, Paul Toomey, Ernie Richardson
Others present: Pam Sawyer, Bob Morra, John Toomey(guest)
Not present: J. Clark, G. Carini

1. Call to Order.

K. Walsh called the meeting to order at 1:29 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

a. March 2, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission approve the minutes with the corrected changes to add Al Dumas to the attendance and voting.

By: E. Richardson

Seconded: P. Toomey

Voting (Y/N/A): 4/0/1

B. Stearns abstained.

Movement of Agenda Item

8G. John Toomey as a guest

By Commission consensus, we have changed the order of the meeting to allow John Toomey and Bob Morra to tell us about the ceremony from last year's Memorial Day and the Tax Update respectively. John stated he was in charge of the Memorial Day observance on the Green. He went over the list of items that occurred. It was stated by Barry Stearns that the items related to the school participation have been completed. Many of the other items have been addressed also. J. Toomey brought up having antique cars and hay wagon in the parade. This information is helpful for additional ideas to focus on next year.

J. Toomey brought up that a year ago he had tried to obtain an American Flag Disposal Box for the Fire House. The goal would be to place this box outside. He had spoken briefly to the Bolton Fire Chief. See below for update on the American Flag Disposal Box for the Town Hall.

There were no further questions to J. Toomey by the Commission.

Action: By consensus, the Commission stated that John could continue to pursue this, and he will keep the Commission informed if there is progress on it.

5. Tax Relief Update

The update has been provided by Bob Morra. He reported there is a committee of Bob Morra, B. DiPietro, M. Eremita to review this. They are waiting for data from the Assessor's office to make further recommendations. Bob Morra reported that there is an increase to the Bolton Grand list which has been stagnant for the last several years. Bolton is currently at \$3,000 plus original base for the exemption for the tax relief for Veterans. It will be changing but more information will be coming as this is reviewed by the sub-committee.

Action: Commission will be updated by Selectmen regarding this process.

3. Update on the Street Naming Sign

The “Veterans Way” street signs have been placed by L. Dimock and Commission members were sent a picture and a picture was shown in meeting. Pam Sawyer will mention this at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Thanks to all who helped with this with special thanks to Lance Dimock. Project completed.

Actions: P. Sawyer will discuss in opening comments on Memorial Day.

4. Name and Dedication of Bench

Barry Stearns has received a quote for the plaque for the bench. It will be around \$350.00 with shipping. P. Sawyer and B. Stearns will work getting P.O. for this. John B. has already removed the bushes as requested around the benches. By Committee consensus, the plaque will be bronze. And on the third line of the plaque, it will start with the word Patriot and updating the rank will be changed to reflect the updated abbreviation.

Actions: B. Stearns will send for proof from the company and follow up with obtaining the plaque. Barry has graciously volunteered to install the plaque on the bench. We have planned to have Pam Sawyer dedicate the bench on Memorial Day and have planned for it in the ceremony.

6.Ct General Statutes

There is no update currently.

7. Flag Box and System

K. Walsh contacted C. Duffy. An e-mail was sent that stated the Boy Scouts did not pick up on this suggestion initially when it was discussed and Chris was going to take on building a box with a few of the Boy Scouts. Second e-mail a week later by Chris stated that one of the Scouts came forward and will do it for a Project. E-mails shared from C. Duffy. P. Sawyer brought up it would be nice if the box was on castors.

Actions: K. Walsh will e-mail C. Duffy regarding having the Scout converse with Town Hall regarding the size and castor suggestion.

8. Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony Coordination

Letter was sent to the Town by K Walsh asking to ensure the Resident Troopers would be leading the parade and the American Flags that are hung around the Bolton Town Green. They are working on finalizing the Resident Trooper.

K. Walsh met with Sharon and Jim Preuss. We received small flags from them that we can have as back up and we had a few more suggestions on who to contact such as the Rec Director in town for Sports Teams and the Riding stables. This has been done also.

John Toomey contacted regarding the Memorial Day celebrations from last year and to inquire whether he had signs to use for the Parade Line-up. John does not have signs. He will come to our meeting to discuss his participation in the parade. He also agreed to continue to talk about Bolton’s historical perspective at ceremony. Thank you John.

Email sent to C and M Riding Stables in Bolton.

There was follow-up with John B. for barrels for closing the road.

Follow-up with Bob Morra for the signs for the parade line-up. He will ask Town Department.

We are working on a Parade Information Guide/Book and a system to move parade forward for next year.

A small notice to be placed in the Town Newsletter has been written and this was reviewed by the Commission

The ceremony draft program was reviewed by the Commission.

It was discussed bringing the celebration after the Parade back to Bolton.

There were no other suggestions for the parade or ceremony by the Commission.

We need Commission Members to help at the parade line-up at Bolton Center School.

P. Sawyer also requested that we attend the 9-11 ceremony at the Fire House .

Action: B. Stearns will follow-up with School and get names of speakers for the Press release and Program.

K. Walsh will send announcement to K. McCavanagh and request publish it twice in April and May.

K Walsh will follow-up with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Pastor to confirm participation.

A press release will be sent when we know the speakers later to the Journal Inquirer by K. Walsh when all school participation is finalized.

9.Other

Diversity Training

This training is offered by the Town for all Commission members. It dnesday May 3rd via Zoom. You will need to e-mail Kathy at kmcccavanagh@boltonct.org if you would like a spot to listen and paticipate.

Update of the Cemetery Review

K. Walsh reported that the Boy Scouts have completed the Bolton Center Cemetery Review. C. Duffy will remind them to get the pictures to us on the Veterans monuments so we can finish the book and place at Town Hall.

11.Adjournment.

The Veterans Commission was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Walsh

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