

**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, Greg Carini
Others present: Pam Sawyer, Bob Morra,
Not present: J. Clark

1. Call to Order.

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

2. Approval of Minutes:

a. April 2, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion: I move that the Veterans Commission approve the minutes with the corrected changes to the bench dedication that states we will dedicate the bench on Memorial Day if the plaque is able to be installed.

By: B. Stearns

Seconded: P. Toomey

Voting (Y/N/A): 6/0/0

3. Name and Dedication of Bench

B. Stearns received P.O. from Town today for the ordering of the placue. This may delay the bench being dedicated on Memorial Day. It will be dependent on if the plaque is received and if Barry can install before Memorial Day. Plan is to have a small private ceremony for family also.

Actions: B. Stearns obtain and install plaque if able before Memorial Day. Family dedication to be planned at the next meeting.

4. Tax Relief Update

The update has been provided by Bob Morra. He reported the sub- committee of Bob Morra, B. DiPietro, M. Eremita met. The Assessor has affirmed that the Grand List will be increasing but it may not automatically increase the Veteran's exemption. The process will include a 5 year step plan but the process has not been finalized yet. The subcommittee meeting will occur on June 1st 1pm at Town Hall and anyone on the commission may attend. It can also be heard on Zoom. Please contact Town Hall if you want to attend or be able to access it on zoom.

Action: Commission will be updated by Selectmen regarding the meeting and the process/plan for the increase and how it will be distributed.

5.Ct General Statutes

There is no update currently from Selectman and it is still in process.

Action: B. Morra will bring to Town Lawyer.

6. Flag Box and System

K. Walsh e-mailed C. Duffy regarding having the Scout converse with Town Hall regarding the size and castor suggestion. Bob Morra had previously approved the flag box and Jim Rupert verified that there is a cardboard flag box currently and it would not be an issue.

Actions: Follow up with C. Duffy after the parade.

7. Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony Coordination

The Resident Troopers will be available on Memorial Day per K. McCavanagh.

Bolton Soccer did contact K. Walsh. They will be bringing Travel Team and the Bolton Soccer Team.

Email sent to C and M Riding Stables in Bolton. No response from the Riding Stables yet.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Soccer Teams have already been sent e-mail regarding the parade.

Pastor Brandon has been dropped off a sample of the program.

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 if able.

Bob Morra reported that the Honor guard is set from Fire Department, all service flags are available, Board of Selectman are invited, and signs have been ordered for the Center School for Parade line up. B. Morra will help for the lineup and he will possibly have one other person. B. Stearns Kathy and Rich Walsh will help.

The school has submitted the 2 names of Eighth graders for the readings, but we are still waiting for the High School speaker and songs. We would like to recognize the Bolton students participating.

Discussion regarding Veterans riding in cars. The best would be convertible for sight lines. Commission members were asked to ride in fire trucks/cars.

Action: B. Stearns will follow-up with School and get the rest of the names and the songs for the program. B. Stearns has followed up with e-mails.

A press release will be sent to the Journal Inquirer by K. Walsh.

K. Walsh will complete and produce 20 copies of the ceremony program.

K. Walsh will send John email regarding flags. -Not needed due to John showing up at end of meeting.

8. Other

Coffee House on May 18th.

Informational brochure passed out to Veterans Commission Members to attend coffee house. It is Thursday May 18th at Army and Navy Club at 10am-12:30 am. All Veterans welcome. Would like to have Veterans Commission attend if possible.

There is a Military Luncheon at the Aqua Turf.

There is a Veterans Coffee House in Willimantic every Wednesday 9-11 at 47 Crescent Street. There is a variety of Speakers and fellowship and it is offered by the Eastern CT. Veterans Center. Please drop in to see this.

Shared by P. Sawyer- In Hollandthe Netherlands - the graves of 8,301 American servicemen who died liberating the country are adopted by a Dutch family. It is the custom to keep a portrait of the serviceman who they adopted in their home and are remembered by the family.

11. Adjournment.

The Veterans Commission was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Walsh

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