

VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, April 4, 2024– 9:30 A.M.
BOLTON TOWN HALL & VIA ZOOM CALL
MINUTES

Present: Kathy Walsh, Gregori Carini, Barry Stearns, Paul Toomey, Ernie Richardson, Linda Rudolph arrived at 9:35 a.m.

Other presents: Suellen Kamara and Bob Morra via Zoom.

Not present: Jim Clark

1. Call to Order:

The Veterans Commission call the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion to seat committee members:

Motion to seat Paul Toomey as a voting member for this commission.

1st Moved: B. Stearns

2nd moved: K. Walsh

Against: None

2. Approval of Minutes.: February 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: A motion to approve the meeting minutes.

1st Moved: Kathy Walsh

2nd moved: P. Toomey

Against: None

Abstain: Barry Stearns.

MOVEMENT OF THE AGENDA ITEMS.

4. Flag Box Update:

Kathy emailed Chris Duff again and received no response.

ACTION: She will try to reach him by phone.

5. Memorial Day Parade Coordination:

a. Pastor – Brandon from the Bolton Congregational Church will be the pastor for the event.

b. Flags – John already ordered the flags.

- c. Fire Chief/Department – Bob Morra already coordinated with the Fire department.
- d. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rec Director – Linda contacted the head of the Boys / Girls Scouts, and now she just needs to send the details about the parade to them. Linda still needs to get in contact with the Recreation Director.
- e. School Report – Barry already has the list of all the names of the students who will participate in the event.
- f. Ceremony Program – Kathy Walsh provided the program, and she will send it to Suellen to make 10 copies.
- g. Resident Troopers- Kathy McCavanagh already contacted the troopers.
- h. Selectman – Pam Sawyer, Bob Morra.
- i. Master of Ceremony: Pam Sawyer has agreed to be Master of Ceremony, and Bob Morra will salute. Also, John B. Toomey Jr. will be the historian.
- j. Town Newsletter – The same as last year, Kathy Walsh just added one more piece.
- k. Flag Collection - Kathy Walsh will bring the table and Linda will bring the card table.

6. Honoring Veterans-Display Case, Coffee House:

The display case will be available in November, where they can place the information. It's a sizable case, so if the commission has any information to include, they are welcome to bring it over. Kathy Walsh spoke with Carrie Concatelli to discuss a coffee house at the Senior Center. Kathy raised a question about how they will attract people to this coffee house. Bob Morra suggested that a good way to disseminate information is to promote the coffee house during Memorial Day or at school events for Veterans' Day. Another effective method is to advertise on the fire department's electronic billboard. They all agreed to start with one individual event at the senior center and assess its success. The discussion will continue in future meetings.

3. Education for Committee-Educational Pamphlets:

Linda Rudolph went to the DAV and VA in Newington and obtained some folders containing additional information related to healthcare for veterans. She plans to revisit those locations before the Memorial Day parade to acquire more folders to display at the event table. Kathy Walsh provided some contact cards for individuals who approached Liz Waters (Town Clerk) expressing interest in supporting veterans.

ACTION: Linda is familiar with them and will contact them to invite them to the next meeting.

7. Tax Relief Update:

Bob Morra mentioned that the subcommittee will likely meet in May.

ACTION: Bob Morra will coordinate this with the Assessor.

8. Monument on Green Report-Update in March/April:

Barry will meet with Pam tomorrow to discuss this matter and will reach a decision by the next meeting to present it to the Board of Selectmen.

Kathy Walsh has sent an email to Jim Rupert and Kathy McCavanagh regarding fundraising from the Hartford Foundation Fund. She will provide further information later.

9. September Celebration for the Bench:

The event will take place on September 20th at 4 p.m. The commission needs to determine the involvement of the selectmen, as they were approached first.

The plan for this celebration is to conduct a small memorial ceremony with a master of ceremonies, ascertain the preferences of the family, and provide refreshments such as coffee, cake, and cookies.

ACTION: Barry Stearn will discuss this matter with Pam Sawyer at their meeting.

Bob Morra left at 10:04 a.m.

10. Other. - a. Any New Agenda Items:

Kathy Walsh wants to clarify who is responsible for canceling the parade in case of cancellation.

ACTION: She will ask someone from the Selectmen's Office.

Linda is interested in exploring options to expand the committee's members and believes the commission needs to request it from the Board of Selectmen.

ACTION: Kathy Walsh will reach out to a woman who has expressed interest in joining the commission.

This matter will be addressed later in the next meetings.

11. Adjourn:

The Veterans Commission adjourned the meeting at 10: 21 a.m. by Barry Stearns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suellen Kamara