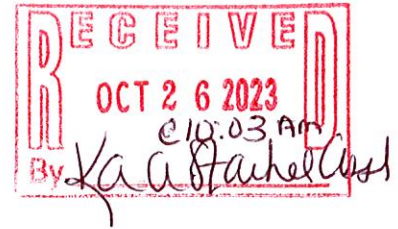


**SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION MINUTES
October 23, 2023**



ATTENDANCE: Roger Anderson, Peter Anthony, Herb Asplund, Diane Behler, Gene Botteron, Will Coursey, Ed Gawlinski, Bobbi Jo Maltz, Paul Mozzicato, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk. Liaison: Mayor Pendleton. Guest: Ken Lewis

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order 7:00 PM by Ed Gawlinski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

- Will has been in contact with Park and Recreation for Veterans Day needs; he will assist in the replacement of a flag at 25 Oakland Road
- Ed has assisted a resident regarding how to purchase wreaths for Wreaths Across America

MINUTES: Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes September 25, 2023, as printed. **Maltz/Coursey CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ed Gawlinski/Gene Botteron

- Current Balance is \$17,645.96; expenditure of \$129.04 for brick overlay

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest 2023: Will Coursey/Diane Behler

- Discussion and adoption of topics postponed until November meeting. Concern discussed regarding how to make changes without airing changes publicly before contest topics are released. Liaison Mayor Pendleton will explore further for the Commission so that we may continue in a timely manner

Banner Project: Herb Asplund, Daria Plummer

- First sponsor this year is Peoples Bank.
- Letters currently being mailed to all previous sponsors.
- Due to receipt of a grant, the project this year will offer sponsorship for return sponsors as follows: \$100/one banner; \$175/two banners; \$250/3 banners. Sponsorship is tax deductible; checks are written to the SW Community Foundation.
- Priority remains oldest veterans to newest: WWII, Korea, Vietnam. However, other names will be taken as room allows. Requests are made monthly through the American Legion. Any and all names should be forwarded to Herb, Daria, and Mihika.

Armed Forces Day May 18, 2024: Ed Gawlinski

- Feasibility of a rain date for 2023 will be sought if Park/Recreation, Fireworks company, and Jaycees (Paul Petrillo contact) to ensure that all are in agreement that a rain date is feasible. Ed will contact all.

Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2024: Paul Mozzicato

- Paul is gathering information. QR code possibility will be sought, as well as digital sign info.
- Point of contact still being sought for Laotian military unit, and for the Buffalo Soldiers Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club.

Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2024 Ed Gawlinski

- Invocation/benediction names discussed. Ed to follow up on a representation from the Hindu

community and/or the new rabbi from Temple Beth Hillel.

Flags in Cemeteries Memorial Day May 27, 2024: Art Sladyk

- Flags will be out for placement on May 23 for cemetery graves.

Flag Day collections/ flag retirement ceremony June 8, 2024: Will Coursey

- Flag collections up to date and stored in area set aside for us at Park/Recreation building.

Veterans in the Schools 2023: Art Sladyk, Daria Plummer

- Film of wreath laying ceremony date changed to Monday, November 6th, 8 AM; gather in front of SWHS; Commission members and American Legion members invited.
- Thursday, November 9, TEMS. Format is that each 8th grade team, in four sessions, of approximately 40 students at each session (40 minutes each session), students will have questions for veterans. Student questions will be sent in advance. Memorabilia is welcomed. The format will be in a panel fashion. Veterans can make a short presentation, followed by q/a. Lunch will be served to all guests at 12:30.
- Friday, November 10th (guests visit SWHS and share ceremony school wide that was pre-filmed). Guests to gather at front foyer at 7:30 AM and will be taken to the green room. Twelve veterans needed for each period, although classes can be combined.
- Elementary School programs are set as follows: PV, Thursday, November 9, 10 AM; Friday, November 10, as follows: ET: 9 AM; OH: 9:15 AM; PRS: 9:30 AM. Commissioners encouraged to attend elementary school programs wherever they can, recognizing that both TEMS and SWHS events conflict.

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2023: Ed Gawlinski

- Discussion held on location due to Pleasant Valley Road bridge repair. As work is nearing completion, Ed will evaluate on November 1st if the ceremony can be held at the Veterans Memorial Park location or if the ceremony will be held at Nevers Park Pavilion instead. He also will contact the Mayor regarding location for electronic signage information.
- Will to confirm with Park and Recreation for portolet, chairs, audio equipment, etc., once location determined. Commission has never assumed portolet cost for Veterans Day.
- Art will contact Public Works on signage, regardless of location.
- Bobbi Jo will update Commission FB page.
- Wreaths ordered. Art has holders.
- WWI monument: Vietnam Veterans Combat Motorcycle Association; WWII: American Legion representative and Rose Pastula; Korea: Peter Anthony; Vietnam: Mayor Elizabeth Pendleton.
- Formal invitations to be sent to: Gold Star Mothers/Families; State representatives/Senator; Town Council.

Wreaths Across America December 16, 2023 (SW-VMP): Art Sladyk

- December 11, noon, State Capitol
- December 16 South Windsor (noon; VMP)
- Donation letters now out; Art coordinating with the American Legion for their event

Wall Behind the Monument and Improvements at VMP (flagpoles, firepit, bricks): Art Sladyk/Herb Asplund/Gene Botteron

- Discussion held on honoring community businesses and members who enabled the Wall Behind the Monument postponed at this time. Art to contact Mr. Kupchunos regarding the request for a letter of

recognition.

Wall of Honor (Town Hall): Herb Asplund

- No changes recently.
- Herb continues to work on coordinating between the town list and the Wall of Honor. The Council has resumed reading names of active military at periodic Council meetings.

Old Business:

- Will still exploring shirt vendors.
- No further discussion needed on point of contact with Park and Recreation.

MOTION: Maltz/Mozzicato: Move that the Patriotic Commission pay for a brick in recognition of Captain Tom Jurgelas. **CARRIED**

- Commission going forward will pay for bricks in such circumstances regarding non-combat deaths of veterans. Names of such veterans, where served, and circumstances involved will be mentioned at either Veterans Day or Memorial Day, in accordance of precedence set.

NEW BUSINESS:

- None at this time.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Rishabh Mohapatra, senior, SWHS and previous Commission essay contest winner, has been recognized for his tutoring remotely of students in math in a Uganda orphanage, as well as in Bengal, India, for tutoring students on the soccer pitch.
- To date, one SWHS student (that we know of) has been selected for a military academy (West Point).

Adjournment: 8:13 PM on a motion by **Mozzicato/Behler CARRIED**

Next Meeting: Monday, November 27, 2023, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,
Daria Plummer, Secretary

