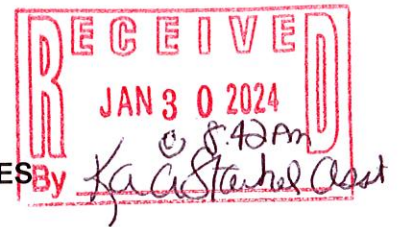


SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION MINUTES
January 22, 2024



ATTENDANCE: Roger Anderson, Gene Botteron, Billy Carroll, Ed Gawlinski, Paul Mozzicato, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk. Liaison: Richard Balboni. Guests: Ken Lewis, Linda Hull

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

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

- The Commission recognized Linda Hull, South Windsor resident. Mrs. Hull addressed the Commission regarding the inclusion of deceased South Windsor veterans in the Veterans Banner Program, for which the Commission has liaisons to that program. Mrs. Hull suggested that possibly a few banner spots could be set aside for veterans no longer living, should that make the availability easier to achieve. Liaisons Herb and Daria will discuss the request with the family that oversees the project.

MINUTES: Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes of November 27, with the correction of the following under Memorial Day Parade, second item: Name of the group is Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club (not Buffalo Soldiers Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club). The minutes were accepted on a motion by: **Plummer/Anderson**
CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ed Gawlinski/Gene Botteron

- Current Balance is \$17,198.03. Ed will clarify in February if the invoices paid were for the case for metal overlay for bricks at VMP and for wreaths for Veterans Day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- The event went well.
- 2024 date at VMP is 12 noon, December 14. State Capitol ceremony is Monday, December 9.

Essay Contest 2024: Will Coursey/Diane Behler

- Online application is live on the website; old forms removed so that no hard copies can be printed.
- Town Manager's office has updated the electronic signs throughout town
- A Facebook post has been sent out to announce the contest start
- Currently no submissions have been recorded
- Information about this year's contest has been sent to the Assistant Superintendent in charge of approval for principals' electronic postings to parents
- The same information will be on the SWBOE website
- Diane has forwarded the information for the essay and poster contests to a contact in all our of district schools that have 10 or more SW students attending

Banner Project 2024: Herb Asplund, Daria Plummer

- Approximately 10 veterans to date for 2024 banners. Meeting last week canceled due to weather. Will update next meeting. However, the program absolutely can have more honorees nominated.

Armed Forces Day May 18, 2024: Ed Gawlinski/Will Coursey

- Discussion held on the SW Jaycees disbandment
- It was the consensus of the Commission that the Commission would utilize the services of Petrillo Events in light of the Jaycees closure if the SW Parks and Recreation Department does not wish to oversee this event with the Commission.
- Council Liaison Richard Balboni has approached the Town Manager and the Commission may work with Petrillo Events if it chooses to do so.
- Ed will write to Molly Keays and Shauna Damon to see if P/R wishes to oversee or if the department prefers the Commission to coordinate with someone else.

Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2024: Paul Mozzicato

- Will and Paul will continue to work on Facebook page and QR code linking. The QR code will link directly to the Commission page and provide parade route information. The goal is to have a larger attendance if possible for both the parade and ensuing ceremony.
- We are on the list for the parade for the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club. Paul has the contact information for the Laotian Vets, but contact has not been established yet.
- Public relations discussed. Facebook boosts cost needs to be ascertained.
- Paul will report in February on parade contacts, as well as ways to promote the parade and ceremony.

Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2024 Ed Gawlinski

- Areas needed being worked upon
- Suggestion made to ask Kent Carlson to be the guest speaker

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, Art Sladyk

- Flag collection completed in January. No issues.
- No new update on ceremony time; Will to coordinate through Park and Rec.

Veterans in the Schools 2024: Art Sladyk, Daria Plummer

- Daria reported that Sara Slogesky will be leaving the school district at the end of the month.
- Daria will reach out to the district for information on the new contact person.
- Ed to follow up on his letter to the Superintendent requesting, if possible, that the elementary programs be on more than one day, or some in the morning and afternoon so that more Commission members could attend.

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2024: Ed Gawlinski

- No report needed at this time.

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

- A bronze plaque being sought to thank all volunteers who enabled the Wall Behind the Monument. Cost being researched.

Wall of Honor (Town Hall): Herb Asplund

- No report at this time.

Old Business:

- Will found a local vendor for Commission shirts; he is still waiting to hear back about a quote.
- Will has made the Facebook page a public page. Daria and Will are administrators; the public no longer needs to ask permission from an administrator to be allowed into the group. The public now can comment on information on the page.
- Portolet budget line should accommodate both the parade and Armed Forces Day needs..

NEW BUSINESS:

- None at this time.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Discussion held on allowing members of the public who might be in attendance to discuss their issues, if any, at the beginning of each meeting. There would be a 10 minute limit on the total discussions; two minutes at a time should there be multiple residents. By consensus, the Commission will try this format to see if it works. Further discussion at the next meeting, if needed.

Adjournment: 8:22 PM on a motion by **Sladyk/Mozzicato CARRIED**

Next Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2024, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,
Daria Plummer, Secretary

