



SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION MINUTES
February 26, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Peter Anthony, Herb Asplund, Diane Behler, Gene Botteron, Billy Carroll, Ed Gawlinski, Paul Mozzicato, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk. Guests: Ken Lewis, Leigh Lovering

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order 7:04 PM by Ed Gawlinski, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

- Letter from Richard G. Totten to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco was read aloud. Mr. Totten [Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Ret.)] complimented South Windsor and the Patriotic Commission for all of its efforts to ensure that our Veterans Day Ceremony was able to occur at Veterans Memorial Park.

MINUTES: Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes of January 22, with a spelling correction of "our" to "out" under the last dot point of Essay Contest 2024. The minutes were accepted on a motion by: **Behler/Asplund**
CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ed Gawlinski/Gene Botteron

- Current Balance remains at \$17,198.03. Ed will clarify that the invoices for metal overlay for bricks at VMP and for wreaths for Veterans Day have been paid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest 2024: Will Coursey (written report)/Diane Behler

- To date, there have been fewer than 10 applications have been downloaded; only one request for a paper form for the poster contest
- Reminders of March 8 deadline have been posted on the Commission's Facebook page and sent to all South Windsor social media accounts that we know of, including all PTOs.
- Commission members asked to also post reminders on their social media sites (copy from our Facebook page)
- All South Windsor schools have sent information home electronically to parents, and confirmation has been received that one out of district school also has given a form to its South Windsor student

Banner Project 2024: Herb Asplund, Daria Plummer

- To date there are 18 nominees for the 2024 banners. The goal is a minimum of 26 for this year.
- Members encouraged to review the list Herb sent to all to see if they know any of the veterans to whom they can reach out. However, the program absolutely can have more honorees nominated.
- For this year, deceased SW veterans will not be eligible. However, that discussion will continue for 2025.

Armed Forces Day, 5 PM-dusk, May 18, 2024: Ed Gawlinski

- As the SW Park and Recreation Department agrees that our Armed Forces Day event would benefit from an organizer, Petrillo Events will oversee.
- Ed will arrange a March meeting with town representatives for the event.
- Billy will speak to Environmental Services.

Memorial Day Parade, 10 AM, May 27, 2024: Paul Mozzicato

- Will and Paul will continue to work on Facebook page and QR code linking.
- Continuing to work on all contacts for the parade (Laotian Vets, eg.)
- Public relations and possible Facebook boosts still being assessed.
- All invitations to participate in the parade go our March 1, 2024
- A group of participants have reached out to us from South Windsor, members of the Milan Cultural Association, Inc, an association of people from India living in the United States, who would like to march. They also will receive a formal invitation to join the parade participants.

Memorial Day Ceremony, 12 noon, May 27, 2024 Ed Gawlinski

- Kent Carlson cannot be in attendance on Memorial Day. Bobbi Jo Maltz has been asked to be the guest speaker and Grand Marshall. She is considering the invitation. Mr. Carlson will be asked for another time.

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 February. No issues.
- No new update on ceremony time; Will to coordinate through Park and Rec.
- Herb will address the location of the flag receptacle box with the SWPL, as it has been moved to a far less prominent site.

Veterans in the Schools 2024: Art Sladyk, Daria Plummer

- Daria reported that Frank Rizzuto will be the contact for SWPS as the new school year commences for 2024-25. She has a meeting with Mr. Rizzuto on March 1 to discuss a contact for the remainder of the school year.
- A SS teacher has already reached out to Peter Bortolan, ALPost #133, who has been visiting the high school for Boys/Girls State. That area appears covered for this spring.

Veterans Day Ceremony, 12 noon, November 11, 2024: Ed Gawlinski

- Speaker needed. Kent Carlson will be contacted.

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

- Merchant Marine flag has come down; Space Force flag is now up
- Nothing will be done to add a Space Force bronze plaque to the Wall Behind the Monument until a permanent flag logo has been declared by the United States.

Wall of Honor (Town Hall): Herb Asplund

- Herb is working with the Town Clerk on the Wall of Honor
- All active reservists and members of the National Guard are eligible.

Wreaths Across America December 14, 2024, 12 noon (SW-VMP): Art Sladyk

- No report needed at this time

Old Business:

- Orders for official Commission shirts are available for wear in the Memorial Day Parade, on Armed Forces Day, and at other events where members are in official capacity, as well as to promote the Patriotic Commission and its activities. Cost is \$30/per shirt.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in Manchester, CT, 9/19-9/22, 2024. While we will not be a host community, we do have three Vietnam Veterans recognized on our Vietnam Memorial at VMP. Herb, Daria, and the Joshi family will meet to discuss how we may specially honor these veterans.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Shauna Damon, Park and Recreation, has asked to be present at our next meeting.
- Ed will speak to Nicole Kowalik, Town Manager's office, to ensure that all information on the Town website regarding the Commission is current/up-to-date.

Adjournment: 7:53 PM on a motion by **Sladyk/Carroll CARRIED**

Next Meeting: Monday, March 25, 2024, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,
Daria Plummer, Secretary

