

SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION

October 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kent Carlson, followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Roger Anderson, Peter Anthony, Herb Asplund, Gene Botteron, Kent Carlson, Ed Gawlinski, Ken Lewis, Leigh Lovering, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk; Guests: Mihika Joshi, Anurag Joshi

MINUTES:

- Minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting were accepted as printed on a **motion** by Sladyk/Lovering.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kent Carlson

- 2019-20 Budget remains the same. Sponsors for Armed Forces Day still being sought.

CORRESPONDENCE: Kent Carlson—none at this time

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest 2020: Roger Anderson

- Forms all set; information sent to Board of Education
- Distribution will be the first week of January

Armed Forces Day May 16, 2020: Kent Carlson

- Bounce House vendor confirmed
- More sponsors needed/desired, as we exceed budget without such generosity

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, May 25, 2020: Leigh Lovering

- Invitations to Bob Hornish to be Grand Marshall and Tom Field to be speaker

The meeting was suspended at this time for a presentation by Mihika Joshi. Mihika, a sixth grader at TEMS, would like to work with the Patriotic Commission to recognize veterans in a different manner. Her thoughts are to have banners placed in areas TBD honoring veterans. It has been suggested that she start with WWII veterans, as we know of 12 in SW. Mihika will work on refining estimated costs. She asked for help in direction of fundraising. A motion was passed unanimously (Asplund/Lewis) to endorse the project and support it. Kent will notify the Council on this project and how the town may be asked to help (brackets on poles).

Flag Day collections/ flag retirement ceremony 9 AM, June 12, 2020: Ken Lewis

- Flags collected; bins reasonably empty
- developed by an Eagle Scout
- New collection bins by Eagle Scout dedicated and lauded. New bins will be at: SWPL; Park/Rec (Wapping); Community Center; Town Hall
- Eagle Scout fire pit project at VMP approved by Boy Scout Council

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2019: Ed Gawlinski

- Chair of program recommends contacting participants earlier

- Signage discussion: Have printed signage for wreath holders and those who will lay wreaths

Veterans in the Schools 2019: Daria Plummer

- Event considered successful in every building. Dr. Carter very pleased; attended three programs, as did the BOE Chair, Craig Zimmerman
- Suggestions made for 2020:
 - Only six veterans for TEMS needed; concern understood if someone could not stay entire day—causes overlap
 - Discussion on shortened vs. regular period at SWHS for veterans interactions with students; consensus is that either works, but clearly a shortened period can handle only two guests, while a regular period may handle three
 - Time allotment needs to be clear to guest; e.g. you each have 15 minutes max
 - Schedule in “green room” suggested—showing time of each period, allowing veteran guests to sign up, ensuring that everyone has more equal opportunities to share classrooms; lunch waves went well—ensured a break for all
 - Consensus that lights on stage a tad too bright
 - Outside wreath laying went well; continue
 - Pleased that Cox filmed; continue, unless a student can do it (see below)
 - Daria to jiggle Capstone idea again with SWHS liaison

Wreaths Across America December 9, 2019 (Capitol) and December 14, 2019 (SW-VMP): Art Sladyk (no report at this time)

Wall Behind the Monument and Improvements at VMP: Art Sladyk

- Electrical work completed
- Pavers will be laid when lights are in, hopefully before it snows
- Moss noticed on bricks; cleaning will be done, along with
- We have been assured that trees will be trimmed by spring
- Security will be the responsibility of Park and Rec Dept.

Wall of Honor: Herb Asplund

- Photo added for Michael Brown, National Guard Reserve

OLD BUSINESS:

- Town Manager will attend a future meeting—hard to find a date not in conflict, but it will occur

NEW BUSINESS:

- Daria, Bobbi Jo, and Art will work on copy for the spring edition of the Park/Rec Magazine—to be done in December

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Wall of Honor at Town Hall being updated; Jason Sarrow being added. Herb asked for names of those who are on the wall but no longer in active service

Adjournment: 8:20 PM, carried on a motion to adjourn by Sladyk/Gawlinski.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Daria Plummer, Secretary

Under old business or new business, banners for vets invited to do presentation, where we will place