

SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION
September 17, 2021

ATTENDANCE: Roger Anderson, Peter Anthony, Herb Asplund, Diane Behler, Gene Botteron, Will Coursey, Ed Gawlinski, Ken Lewis, Leigh Loverng, Bobbi Jo Maltz, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk; Deputy Mayor Liz Pendleton, Council Liaison

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Ken Lewis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes amended as follows of June 28, 2021: Addition, after "Card signed," under ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE, "and check for his gift sent."
Asplund/Anderson CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ken Lewis

- September commences new budget year. Town funding remains at \$13,500, while cost of operation is \$2000+ over. Inability to hold events allowed purchase of replacement cemetery flags, as well as large flags for other areas of South Windsor for which Commission places flags.
- Discussion held with Council Liaison on budget; possible request for increase.
- Remaining banner funds transferred to the SW Community Foundation. Going forward all donations will be tax deductible.

CORRESPONDENCE: Ken Lewis

- Town IT Department has set up an official email site for the Commission. It is: swpatritioiccommission@southwindsor-ct.gov. Both Chairperson Ken Lewis and Vice Chairperson Bobbi Jo Maltz will have access. Our essay submissions will be able to now go directly to this email address.
- Letter received from Wreaths Across America. The Commission donated to this project in June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest 2021: Roger Anderson

- Nearly every 2020 and 2021 contest winner marched in the 175th Jubilee Parade, held September 18, 2021.
- Arrangements for presentation before Town Council will be made, 2020 recipients at one meeting and 2021 at another, prior to Election Day.

Armed Forces Day May 21, 2022: Ken Lewis

- By consensus, Commission will proceed for a 2022 event, unless pandemic concerns become prominent.

Memorial Day Parade May 30, 2022: Leigh Lovering

- By consensus, Commission will proceed for a 2022 parade, unless pandemic concerns become prominent.
- Up to eight convertibles secured for essay contest winners

Memorial Day Ceremony May 30, 2022: Ed Gawlinski

- Plans for Memorial Day Ceremony will go forward. Speaker will be sought.
- By consensus it was agreed that both Boy and Girl Scouts will be asked to put flags in cemeteries.
- Flags for Main Street are good for the next several years, barring storm damage.

Flag Day collections/ flag retirement ceremony June 11, 2022: Ken Lewis

- Six bags of flags have been collected to date.
- Publication of bin locations on the town website and our Facebook site

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2022 Ed Gawlinski

- By consensus, Commission will proceed for a 2022 event, unless pandemic concerns become prominent.
- Speaker nominations: Paul Mozzicato, Christina Beaulieu, LT GEN Lewis Craparotta, Air Force recruiter
- Discussion held on minister for invocation/benediction. SW pastors/ministers (St. Francis/First Congregational Church) mentioned, as well as Manchester Lutheran minister, Pastor Stephanie Kershner.
- Five additional bricks to date will be added this year
- Four-five 4' by 8' signs at town garage can be installed to alert residents of the ceremony, unless pandemic concerns become prominent.

Veterans in the Schools 2021: Daria Plummer

- Only essential personal allowed in schools at this time.
- Commission pleased to do video recordings for students. Five volunteers: Peter Bortolan, Will Coursey, Diane Behler, Liz and Robyn (Packi) Pendleton. Daria will forward contact information to Sara Slogesky, SWHS, Curriculum Coordinator.
- Commission pleased to do the ceremony the day before. Ken Lewis will tape the message for the Commission.

Wreaths Across America December 18, 2021 (SW-VMP): Art Sladyk

- State ceremony is Monday, December 13, 2021, at the Capitol.

Wall Behind the Monument and Improvements at VMP: Art Sladyk

- Security cameras installed and functioning
- VMP Fire Pit at the Town Garage. Area to be raised up, making area somewhat larger.
- Art will pursue exact amount remaining in VMP account within the SWPEF. A check cut for an item may have not been within our domain.

Wall of Honor: Herb Asplund – No report at this time

Banner Project: Daria Plummer, Herb Asplund

- Discussion held on banner and sponsorship cost requests. It was decided to leave sponsorship at \$250.
- Discussion held on era/conflict. We will still seek WW II and Korean War (era) veterans first, followed by Vietnam era veterans. Criteria remains that nominees reside in SW. At this time deceased veterans not being honored, unless nominated prior to their passing. Currently 14 banners can be hung.

Old Business: None at this time

NEW BUSINESS: None at this time

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Brick form and wall forms have been updated and are available on the website.

Adjournment: 8:00 PM on a motion by **Behler/Anderson.**

Next Meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,

Daria Plummer, Secretary