

SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION
October 25, 2021

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

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order at 7:10 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 September 17, 2021: Spelling of new email site should be: swpatrioticcommission@southwindsor-ct.gov. (Two letters inadvertently transposed initially when transcribed.) **Gawlinski/Lovering CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ken Lewis

- Discussion held with Council Liaison on budget; any request for increase must occur in the ensuing budget cycle which begins in January 2022.
- Current budgeted expenses will be relooked at for major events held by the Commission, with alterations made as necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE: Ken Lewis (none at this time)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest 2021: Roger Anderson

- Arrangements for presentation before Town Council being made, 2020 recipients at one meeting and 2021 at another, subsequent to Election Day. Roger will confirm dates with Clerk of the Council.
- 2022 Rotational contest topic titles will be sent via email to members

Armed Forces Day May 21, 2022: Ken Lewis

- Discussion held on purpose and focus of Armed Forces Day, with military displays, fireworks, and offering of food choices to foster a "picnic in the park" feel.
- Difficulty in obtaining commitments and presence of military representation also discussed.
- Review of vendors and decision of format of event to be discussed in November.
- Interact Club, SWHS, will assist the event as needed.

Memorial Day Parade May 30, 2022: Leigh Lovering

- All correspondence updated and will be sent out in 2022.
- At this time, 10 convertibles most likely available for essay contest winners and for use in parade.

Memorial Day Ceremony May 30, 2022: Ed Gawlinski

- Letters and requests will be sent out after Veterans Day completed and thank you notes sent
- 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

- Seven bags of flags have been collected to date.

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2022 Ed Gawlinski

- Speaker will be Paul Mozzicato; Invocation and benediction will be given by Rev. Nina Schmid, First Congregational Church, South Windsor; John Helmke has committed to play Taps; Lee Mann and the South Windsor Community Chorus will sing the National Anthem; SWPD Honor Guard will be present; Broad Brook Gardens' wreaths will be purchased, although due to supply issues, wreaths will be 15" rather than 18". However, wreaths will be filled out as best as possible.
- Laying wreaths will be: WWI: Roger Anderson; WWII: Leigh Lovering; Korean Memorial: Herb Asplund; Vietnam Memorial: Liz Pendleton.
- Ken will ask Art Sladyk for location of the bell.
- State elected officials representing South Windsor (Sen. Anwar, Rep. Currey, Rep. Delnicki) will be invited.
- Large 4' by 8' signs will be erected after Election Day.
- Eleven additional bricks to date will be added this year.

Veterans in the Schools 2021: Daria Plummer

- Confirmed Commission and local veteran members who have done their recordings for the 2021 classroom video presentations are: Peter Bortolan, Will Coursey, Liz and Robyn (Packi) Pendleton. Ken will confirm status with Diane Behler.
- Ceremony will be filmed at SWHS, 7:30 AM, Monday, November 8. American Legion members and Patriotic Commission members are asked to attend. If inclement weather causes a delay, the next two days will be made available for taping the ceremony.

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

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

Wall Behind the Monument and Improvements at VMP: Ken Lewis for Art Sladyk

- VMP fire pit will be ready for June 11th flag burning.
- Cameras functioning

Wall of Honor: Herb Asplund

- Changes made, as Sgt. Poma has been promoted and Lt. Gen. Craparotta has retired.
- New honorees to be researched.

Banner Project: Daria Plummer, Herb Asplund

- Environmental Services will remove the banners after Veterans Day. Banners will be offered to sponsors for display through Memorial Day, and if they prefer not the banners will be offered to each respective veteran immediately. Banners on display with sponsors are given to veterans after display period.
- Discussion held on promotion of the project through the American Legion to gather the next 14 names for 2022 banners. Vietnam era veterans certainly can be encouraged now, with research ongoing for WWII and Korean era veterans.
- Suggestion of further promoting the project on Commission Facebook page, as well as Town Website. Also, Commission could come before the Town Council periodically to share programs, including the Banner Project.

Old Business:

- Leigh has spoken to Clay Major regarding ordering Commission flags when the town orders its flags, as a cost savings to the Commission regarding flag replacements. Clay to research.

NEW BUSINESS: None at this time

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Discussion held on promoting Patriotic Commission programs through frequent appearance before Town Council regarding upcoming events, postings on the South Windsor Government site, as well as continued posts on the Commission's Facebook page and local SW social media sites.
- Short sentence write ups by Commission members responsible for their select events, as well an evaluation of all of our responsibilities, suggested for further promotion of Commission activities within the community. Write-ups to be sent to Bobbi Jo for postings.

Adjournment: 8:30 PM on a motion by **Maltz/Lovering.**

Next Meeting: Monday, November 22, 2021, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,

Daria Plummer, Secretary