

**SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION**  
**November 28, 2022**



**ATTENDANCE:** Roger Anderson, Herb Asplund, Gene Botteron, Will Coursey, Ed Gawlinski, Margaret Glover, Leigh Lovering, Bobbi Jo Maltz, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk. Guests: Ken Lewis, Paul Mozzicato

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Two fireworks proposals received. Ed will set up meeting with the appropriate individuals to review proposals. Commission members will be invited.
- Ed will contact the appropriate person within Town Hall to ensure that his name/number is given now as chair of the Patriotic Commission.

**MINUTES:** Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes October 24, 2022. **Maltz/Coursey CARRIED**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ed Gawlinski

- No changes to budget expenses at this time, although wreaths for Veterans Day need to be paid for.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Essay Contest 2023:** Roger Anderson

- Essay contest will begin January 13 and conclude March 3..
- Will is able to have the entry form digitally ready for the end of December. It will be posted on our website and FB page, by Will, and he will find the appropriate person who will post on the town website.
- Will also will ensure that the digital format allows for the application and essays (not poster entries) are able to be done totally online.
- Posters will be submitted in person at the Town Hall.

**Veterans in the Schools 2022:** Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk

- All programs were successfully completed and veterans were in attendance for each school's program.
- Going forward, Art Sladyk will assume all responsibility for TEMS and SWHS veterans' attendance.

**Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2022** Ed Gawlinski

- Event lauded. All went well.
- Going forward, Shauna Damon, Park and Rec Dept., will print programs for Veterans Day (and Memorial Day) at no cost to the Commission.

**Wreaths Across America December 17, 2022 (SW-VMP):** Art Sladyk

- Donations to date amount to 100 wreaths short of goal. Fundraiser on December 4, SW Community Center, may complete the goal.
- Cemeteries are all marked; Girl and Boy Scout troops to help lay wreaths
- State ceremony is on December 12 at the state Capitol.

**Banner Project:** Herb Asplund, Daria Plummer

- Newspaper/social media notices have been placed for Veterans Day to begin interest for 2023, both in the JI (run once) and the Community Courant (run twice)

- All 2022 banners down and are being distributed to sponsors who wish to display until Memorial Day or to the veterans, if sponsors wish to have the banner delivered directly to the honoree now.
- Ten nominations have been received to date

**Armed Forces Day May 20, 2023:** Ed Gawlinski

- RFP for 2023 fireworks received (refer to correspondence).
- 2023 budget may need additional fund request

**Memorial Day Parade May 29, 2023:** Leigh Lovering

- Leigh introduced Paul Mozzicato, who will replace Leigh on the Commission once approved by the Town Council. Paul will assume all duties for the Memorial Day Parade.
- It was agreed that the keynote speaker should be an open request, allowing the Commission to ask/select the guest speaker.
- The Connecticut Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, through Paul Mozzicato, expressed their gratefulness for inclusion in our ceremony.
- Flags on Main Street were discussed at this time. The Commission reminded itself of a previous discussion it had that the Main Street residents who care for the flag placements (80 flags) need to be informed that the Commission itself should not be responsible for the cost of replacement flags (approximately \$2500) and that payment for the next replacement set of flags needs to be sought.

**Memorial Day Ceremony May 29, 2023:** Ed Gawlinski—no report at this time

**Flags in Cemeteries Memorial Day May 29, 2023:**

- 2023 purchased and ready for Memorial Day.

**Flag Day collections/ flag retirement ceremony June 10, 2023:** Will Coursey

- Will to double check if the date will be June 10 or 17—depending of Park/Rec activities at VMP.

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

- Merchant Marine Flag to be replaced by Space Force Flag by Memorial Day
- Plantings need to be further from bricks
- Moss on bricks to be attended to...trees need to be trimmed to allow for more sunlight on bricks
- Depth of etching on bricks (new vendor) will be monitored to ensure a good depth. Otherwise a new vendor will be sought.

**Wall of Honor:** Herb Asplund—no report at this time

**Old Business:**

- Herb, Will, and Daria explained the Dog Tag Project that Mihika Joshi has been working on. All three had a prior virtual tour of the program.
- Will to work with designers on Dog Tag Project as the free version is limiting. We need to know cost of the premium version, which would allow Mihika Joshi greater capability within the visual museum and interactive component of the new project she is working on.
- Discussion held that such a project may wish to be part of the town government budget, either through the Town Council or Board of Education. Further discussion will be had.
- Will will continue to look into pins/shirts for the Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussion held on Gold Star Families. Incorporation into Memorial and Veterans Day commentary can be had.
- Ed to contact individual who is concerned about lack of acknowledgement of Gold Star Families.

**ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:**

- Discussion held on December meeting. It was decided by consensus that no December meeting would be held.

**Adjournment:** 8:55 PM on a motion by **Maltz/Lovering CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, January 23, 2023, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,

Daria Plummer, Secretary