

SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION MINUTES
September 25, 2023



ATTENDANCE: Roger Anderson, Peter Anthony, Herb Asplund, Gene Botteron, Will Coursey, Ed Gawlinski, Paul Mozzicato, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk. Liaison: Mayor Pendleton. Guests: Ken Lewis, Tom Krivickas, Al Kupchunos

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

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:

- Presentation made by Tom Krivickas, nephew of Captain Thomas Jurgelas—a full-time air defense alert pilot for the Connecticut Air National Guard's 118th Fighter Interception Squad—regarding a way to honor his uncle who died at a Bradley Field crash in 1964 while assisting a colleague with training.
- Liaison Mayor Pendleton addressed the Commission on a possible way to honor such wartime non-combat deaths, in addition of a brick memorial, with the Town providing a stone and plaque for names. The Commission will discuss at a future meeting

MINUTES: Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes June 26, 2023, as printed. **Plummer/Anderson CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ed Gawlinski/Gene Botteron

- Current budget for fiscal year 2023-24 is \$17,775. Town Council thanked for increasing the Commission budget to reflect current costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest 2023: Will Coursey

- Contest winners for 2023 were printed in the Community Courant, Thursday, August 24.
- Daria will resend topic list to all Commission members again, ensuring 2023 topics so noted so the Commission can confirm/choose 2024 topics.

Banner Project: Herb Asplund, Daria Plummer

- We are in our fifth year of the project assisting Mihika Joshi.
- 2023: 26 banners; there is room for more at both locations; using the universal bracket ensures more poles can be used.
- Commission encouraged to seek veterans currently living in South Windsor for this project, especially veterans from the Vietnam era and earlier.
- Sponsors will be sought again, including repeat sponsors.
- Please ask potential sponsors or honorees to contact Herb or Daria.
- Woman and minority veterans are especially being sought.
- Virtual museum would honor those who have been honored through the banner project; some progress being made on how to proceed.

Armed Forces Day May 18, 2024: Ed Gawlinski

- Feasibility of a rain date for 2023 will be sought if Park/Recreation, Fireworks company, and Jaycees (Paul Petrillo contact) are in agreement that a rain date is feasible. Ed will contact all.

Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2024: Paul Mozzicato

- Active movement on 2024 Parade will begin after 2023 holiday season
- QR code discussion held. Paul and Will to work together on this. Goal is to have a code on posters that would bring people to information on our Facebook page and/or to the Town's website for the Patriotic Commission.
- Ken Lewis and Paul Mozzicato are trying to find a contact for the Laotian military unit that used to participate in our Memorial Day parade.

Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2024 Ed Gawlinski

- No report at this time.

Flags in Cemeteries Memorial Day May 27, 2024: Art Sladyk

- No report at this time.

Flag Day collections/ flag retirement ceremony June 8, 2024: Will Coursey

- Flag collections up to date and stored in area set aside for us at Park/Recreation building.

Veterans in the Schools 2023: Art Sladyk, Daria Plummer

- Dates set for 2023 are: Wednesday, November 8th (film wreath laying ceremony out front at SWHS); Thursday, November 9th (guests visit TEMS); Friday, November 10th (guests visit SWHS and share ceremony school wide)
- Daria has three possible younger active military for Friday, November 10, at SWHS. She will pursue.

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2023: Ed Gawlinski

- Rick Totten, Lt. Col. (Ret), US Army, guest speaker, has submitted his comments to Gene Botteron and they are deemed satisfactory.
- SWHS is auditioning trumpeters for the playing to Taps at the ceremony; two trumpeters will be chosen so that an echo may be heard.
- Reverend Ann Fraley, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, will give the invocation and benediction.
- Will Coursey will coordinate all needed items from Park and Recreation, including who obtains the portolets.
- Paul Mozzicato to contact Vietnam Veterans Combat Motorcycle Association for a member to place the WWI wreath.
- Ed Gawlinski will obtain the wreaths from Broadbrook Gardens
- Peter Anthony will place the Korean War wreath
- Mayor Pendleton will place the Vietnam War wreath
- Rose Pastula and a 100 year old WWII veteran will be sought to place the WWII wreath.

Wreaths Across America December 17, 2023 (SW-VMP): Art Sladyk

- December 10 State Capital date
- December 16 South Windsor date (noon; VMP)
- Donation letters now out; Art coordinating with the American Legion for their event

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

- Discussion held on honoring community businesses and members who enabled the Wall Behind the Monument to be built at minimal cost. Art Sladyk will report at a future meeting on how we might honor those who donated their services for the Wall Behind the Monument.
- Mayor Pendleton spoke to the need of informing the Town Manager and Parks/Recreation Director on any physical changes to VMP that we might be proposing. Anything done to impact town property is to

go through the Town Manager.

- Park and Recreation will be asked about trimming of a tree at the right side that impacts the sun on the pavers.
- Quality of brick composition discussed; a new supplier may be sought if issue not resolved.

Wall of Honor (Town Hall): Herb Asplund

- No activity at this time.
- Discussion held on updating list of active SW military men and women that has/had been read during Town Council meetings.

Old Business:

- Will to keep exploring shirt vendors, as the previous contact has not responded to Will.
- A dozen new pins have been received.
- Brick frame discussed. Ken to place the order once two flags are transposed.

Motion: Move to extend the meeting for and additional ten minutes. **Botteron/Anderson Carried**

NEW BUSINESS:

- None at this time.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Best wishes extended to Ed on his upcoming surgery.
- Birthday wishes offered to Roger Anderson.
- Al Kupchunos wishes a letter of recognition for his contributions to the Wall Behind the Monument.

Adjournment: 8:35 PM on a motion by **Sladyk/Anderson CARRIED**

Next Meeting: Monday, October 23, 2023, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,
Daria Plummer, Secretary

