



**SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**November 27, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE:** Roger Anderson, Peter Anthony, Herb Asplund, Diane Behler, Gene Botteron, Will Coursey, Ed Gawlinski, Paul Mozzicato, Daria Plummer, Art Sladyk. Liaison: Richard Balboni. Guests: Ken Lewis, Leigh Lovering

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

**CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATION:**

- None at this this

**MINUTES:** Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes of October 23, 2023, as printed. **Behler/Asplund CARRIED**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ed Gawlinski/Gene Botteron

- Current Balance is \$17,645.96. Two outstanding invoices not yet submitter: Case for metal overlay for bricks at VMP and for wreaths for Veterans Day.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Veterans in the Schools 2023:** Art Sladyk, Daria Plummer

- All programs went well.
- Will Coursey will try to get wreath laying video on our webpage, coordinating with Sara Slogesky, SWPS.
- Discussion held on conflicting times with elementary school programming for Veterans Day. The goal is to have more Commission members be able to attend elementary school programs, if possible.  
**MOTION:** Move to ask the Superintendent of Schools if there is possibly a way to have elementary school programming for Veterans Day to not be in conflict with each other, middle and high school programs, and Veterans Day itself. **Behler/Asplund CARRIED**

**Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2023:** Ed Gawlinski

- All went well. Everyone thanked for their support and help for the event.
- Trumpeters complimented. Students will be available to play Taps on Memorial Day also.
- SWHS will work with the Commission also will participate in the Memorial Day Parade.
- Discussion held on stopping traffic coming into and/or leaving VMP during the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance and during Taps. It was suggested that a monitor be placed at two locations during those two brief times starting with Memorial Day.
- Discussion held on obtaining media attention for our events, both in advance and at the events. Paul will share his media contact list. Anyone with additional contacts should add to the list.
- Discussion held on having a brick location guide. Such a location guide would be put on our website.

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

- All 2023 banners now have been lowered and will be distributed to sponsors to host until May 2024 or to honorees should sponsor be unable to host. By 2024 all 2023 banners will have been returned to respective honorees.
- To date, 31 flags have sponsors. Currently, we have five honorees. Herb will resend the town listing of veterans receiving tax abatements. Commissioners asked to contact anyone they know who has not

been honored to date to ask if they are willing to be nominated.

- Discussion held on link on town website that appears down. Daria will contact Mihika.

**Wreaths Across America December 16, 2023 (SW-VMP); December 11, 2023 (Capitol):** Art Sladyk

- South Windsor ceremony plans all set for 12 noon, December 16, 2023, at VMP

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

- Flag collections to be picked up for this month. All Veterans Day flags have been removed from cemeteries and stored at Park and Recreation for June retirement. .

**Essay Contest 2024:** Will Coursey/Diane Behler

- Discussion confirmed that topic numbers for 2024 will be as follows:  
K-2, #3; Grs. 3-5, #5; Grs. 6-8, #4; Grs. 9-12, #4. Posters will be judged in person.
- Discussion held on electronic submissions only, with exceptions for special circumstances, to avoid having paper submissions lingering at various locations.  
**MOTION:** Move to require all essays be electronically submitted, with special exceptions made as needed, when the chairpersons are so notified. **Behler/Asplund CARRIED**
- Daria will contact the BOE office to gather information needed for electronic promotion through principals' pages and forward the information to Diane and Will.
- Essay contest open to all South Windsor students, those attending South Windsor schools and South Windsor students attending other area schools. Daria will contact the BOE to see if there is any contact information of where the students attend and who to contact in those various schools.

**Armed Forces Day May 18, 2024:** Ed Gawlinski/Will Coursey

- South Windsor Park and Recreation advocates, and the Commission concurred, that a rain date would not be feasible. Fireworks without all participants lessens the meaning of the event and schedules are jammed for all involved.

**Memorial Day Parade May 27, 2024:** Paul Mozzicato

- Tentative flyers distributed. QR code would take one to a town page with information about the parade, including a map of the parade route. Will Coursey will work to see how this can be done.
- Contact information for Laotian military unit and for the Buffalo Soldiers Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club ascertained. Awaiting responses.
- There would be no problem with current digital signage.
- Increased public relations needed for the parade; discussion to be held at a later date.

**Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2024** Ed Gawlinski

- Invocation/benediction representation still being sought.
- Trumpeters in place. As mentioned previously, the SWHS band will be in the parade.
- Commissioners asked to submit names of keynote speakers. A reminder that keynote speakers are also the Grand Marshall of the parade.

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

- Flags will be out for placement on May 23 for cemetery graves.



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

- Will has contacted Park and Recreation about tree trimming. No word to date.

**Wall of Honor (Town Hall):** Herb Asplund

- Wall of Honor now located next to Council Chambers.
- The list of honorees (active South Windsor military personnel) is read periodically at Town Council.
- Wall of Honor needs updating as to who is now in military service and those who have left. Herb to attend to this.

**Old Business:**

- Will still exploring shirt vendors.
- Art still working on how we might honor those who assisted in Wall Behind the Monument.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Art presented the possibility of South Windsor hosting the Vietnam Travel Wall in 2026. If approved in May 2024 by the South Windsor American Legion Post #133, they can request South Windsor be host in July or August 2026. The wall would be set up at Nevers Road Park, be available 24-7, for a four day display. Much help will be needed and there is a cost of bringing the Wall to a locality. To be further discussed at the next meeting.
- Discussion held on changing our Commission Facebook page from a "group" page to a public page. Will Coursey to follow up on this.
- Will also will get to Park and Recreation the dates for our events for 2024, as well as the times of each even.
- Portolet as budget line items discussed. There is conflicting information about billing. This item to be discussed at the next meeting.

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

- Mihika Joshi, sophomore, SWHS, who spearheads the Banner Project, has completed all her requirements for her Girl Scout Gold Award.
- Bobbi Jo Maltz will not seek reappointment to the Commission. Billy Carroll will be appointed as her replacement.

**Adjournment:** 8:30 PM on a motion by Sladyk/Coursey **CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, January 22, 2024, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,  
Daria Plummer, Secretary

