



SOUTH WINDSOR PATRIOTIC COMMISSION
September 27, 2022

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

CALL TO ORDER: Call to order 7:00 PM by Bobbi Jo Maltz, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Ed will meet with SW Rec Dept. special events coordinators regarding Armed Forces Day.
- Bobbi Jo received a call re: Rye Street flags, which the Commission does not provide. The issue has been resolved, however, with new flags in place, courtesy of Moniz Landscaping.

MINUTES: Daria Plummer

- Motion made to accept the minutes of May 23, 2022. **Gawlinski/ Behler CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Extensive discussion held on the budget, both the 2022-23 budget, with implications for the 2023-24 budget.
 - Commission extremely appreciative for everything the town does for and with the Commission.
 - Recommendation that by December Commission representatives meet with SW Finance Director, Patti Perry, to review needs for 2023-24, as costs have definitely increased during the past several years for what the same items/events that the Commission provides for the promotion of patriotism within SW.
 - Subsequent to that meeting and budget development, Commission representatives will meet with the Town Manager.
 - Flag budget discussion included liaison research to see if VMP flags may be purchased with SW town flag purchases.
 - Flags for American Legion field discussed, the purchase of which should not come out of Commission line account.
 - Main Street flags have been purchased by the Commission for a number of years. Going forward, the Commission will request that flags be purchased by Main Street residents or a through a business donation sought by the residents. Currently, Roger Tripp and Jay Murtha handle the flag replacement services.
 - Bobbi Jo to discuss with Paul Petrillo (SW Jaycees) about costs for 2023 AFD—will costs be above what we paid for AFD 2022 and affect the budget for this year?
 - Discussion held on relinquishing control of AFD and allowing a town department, as Park/Rec, to run the event. It was acknowledged that the town does very much for us for our activities throughout the year and that we will continue to work with the Jaycees for AFD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Essay Contest 2023: Roger Anderson

- Essay topics distributed for 2023 for October discussion.
- Will Coursey thanked for his work in having essay contest forms available online; Will to work to have the form available at the Commission's gmail account site, as well as a link to bring each school site to the Commission's QR code for the entry form. Will also speak to Scott Roberts re: essay form submissions from school (teacher must do; not student; or student does from home).

Veterans in the Schools 2022: Daria Plummer

- Video production for Veterans Day ceremony and wreath laying at SWHS will be 11/9 @ 9:15.
- Veterans invited to visit all Social Studies classrooms at **SWHS** on 11/11 between 7:30-1:45. There will be up to 10 classes at a time during some periods, hence 10 veterans requested at all times. Guests could split their time between two classes for the periods that have more classes meeting, if needed and fewer than 10 veterans available. Class periods are 40 minutes long.
- **TEMS** will share previously recorded videos of *Veteran Interviews* and lessons for Grades 6 & 7. Veterans visit Grade 8 Social Studies classrooms on 11/9 & 11/10, with four veterans needed for the day as there are up to 4 classes at a time, but longer periods, so guests could split their time between classes if fewer than four volunteers. .
- **Elementary** schools will have programs; times/days TBD.
- As long as names submitted in advance to the BOE and schools, veterans may simply show up the days/schools for which they are volunteering.

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2022 Ed Gawlinski

- Planning, with invitations being sent, about to begin.

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

- South Windsor American Legion Post #133 was 2nd in CT in funds raised for wreaths
- Mailings for 2022 have gone out.
- Convoy of trucks unable to come to SW due to truck size and turn areas of any appropriate locations.

Banner Project: Herb Asplund, Daria Plummer

- Newspaper/social media notices to be placed for Veterans Day to begin interest for 2023
- Herb has obtained the list of SW veterans who are registered for tax abatements, which should help us identify veterans as needed for the project.
- Three nominations have been received to date, due to Mihika Joshi's letter to assisted living facilities.

Armed Forces Day May 20, 2023: Ed Gawlinski

- Meeting held with Walt Summers, Scott Roberts, Daria Plummer re: RFP for 2023 fireworks, which will be available on 10/3 and close 10/27.
- Commission members will be invited to the interview with top chosen bidders.

Memorial Day Parade May 29, 2023: Leigh Lovering—no report at this time

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

Flags in Cemeteries Memorial Day May 29, 2023:

- 2022 flags will be pulled prior to Wreaths Across America wreath laying.

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

- All flags collected to date.

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

- Four bricks readying for 2022 placement
- Should cost of new vendor increase significantly from previous, brick cost may need an increase. Discussion to be held later.

- Gene Botteron lauded for his precision in brick laying at VMP.

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

Old Business:

- Neon vests have been made available to the Commission for use at events such as Armed Forces Day and the Memorial Day Parade. Daria has them and will hand out at the times needed.
- Bobbi Jo has the old coins; Ed has the new coins; Bobbi Jo has coin holders that fit both.
- Daria will check to see if new badges can be made at Staples.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motions made and **CARRIED** to accept the following nominees for 22-23 officers

- Election of officers, 2022-23 year
Chairperson/Budgetary Management: Ed Gawlinski **Plummer/Asplund**
Vice-chairperson: Gene Botteron **Plummer/Lovering**
Secretary: Daria Plummer **Asplund/Sladyk**

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE:

- Peter Anthony spoke of his experience with Freedom Flight, which recently completed its annual fall visit to Washington, DC. Four WW II veterans were on this CT 2022 Fall Honor Flight, one veteran being 103.

Adjournment: 9:15 PM on a motion by **Behler/Sladyk CARRIED**

Next Meeting: Monday, October 24, 2022, 7 PM, Madden Room

Respectively Submitted,

Daria Plummer, Secretary