

East Windsor Veterans Commission Special Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021 7pm
Fire Station 1 89 Bridge Street East Windsor CT 06078

Call to order 7:02

Pledge led by Jim Barton

Attendance: Rick Webster, Dan Morgan, Ernie Textiera, Peter Sanders, Mary Morgan Scott Morgan, Jim Barton, Bob Lyke, Ken Crouch, Ed Filipone, Robert Dynak absent, Gil Hayes Absent, Vic DeCapua absent, Bruce Putinas absent

Public Session: NA

Added Agenda Item: Motion to add discussion of a shed to the agenda, all in favor

Secretary Report

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 10, 2020, as submitted Scott Morgan, Peter Sanders second. All in favor, Bob Lyke abstains

Treasurer Report: motion to approve the treasurer as presented Scott Morgan, Peter Sanders second. All in favor

Chairman report: NA

Committee Reports

Fundraising: There has been no fundraising due to covid-19.

Spring we could do a clothing drive.

Publicity: NA

Memorial Day: Scott: It would be nice to hand out little toy soldiers to everyone who attends the event in memory of fallen soldiers.

Peter: I think we should also do the missing man table.

Cemetery- Cemetery Flags: Ed: When I was picking up the flags this year, I was wondering if there was a way to get a holder that is on the stone instead of the ones in the ground. We decided at the last meeting we will not be using old flags. Jim will talk to Andy Hoffman about the change of flags and the timing of placement/removal. Andy would like them all to be in holders.

Discussion of the cost of holders.

Scott: I think we should buy them all at once, instead of only buying a few. Ken: it's not a money issue we should get them all at once. Jim: we need to do an inventory to determine what we need.

It would be about \$3000.00 for 500 medallions.

Service Officer: I have been dealing with claims and appeals currently. We have been sending people to Newington, they are back to work. I have been asking people if they use the VA, most people say NO due to making too much money. This is no longer the case. We have great people in charge now. Rick: how are veterans getting the vaccine? Bob: I think they should call Newington and ask. Peter: as of right now if you are registered with the VA you will get a call from them.

Discussion of VA benefits.

Road Race 2021: I got the bibs from Ken, the timer guy. They are at my house; he is still in business. The race is TBA due to the state, and covid-19. Our date is reserved for 2021.

New Business:

Scholarships: I received the forms from the schools, the one question we need to fill out is; does one member of our commission want to go to the awards ceremony? Dan and Scott will go to the ceremony.

Budget 2021-2022: The budget workshop for the commission is Tuesday 2/16/2021 via zoom at 7 pm. We kept the budget the same.

Old Business:

Wreaths Across America: In 2019 Ernie said that was his last year chairing the event, Dan is now chairing the event. Ernie is now saying he does not want to stop chairing the event. I feel we stay with the change. Ernie: I have a letter from Wreaths Across America, I have been doing this for the past 11 years. They sent me a book with my responsibilities (read a passage). This is a separate event, not part of the Veterans Commission or the town. I am their coordinator; I do not report to the Veterans Commission. Jim: It is obvious that this is a Veterans Commission event, a town event, covered by town insurance. It is not acceptable to have an event like this when you don't answer us as a commission. Peter: how many people came from out of town? Don't we pay for the wreaths? Yes, we pay paid for the wreaths this year. I feel this year it was not very organized, and not well attended. It was a mishmash of who was going to do what. We need some organization for the event; we don't need one person who is not in communication with the commission. We are not hearing anything before the event. Ernie: It is not a military ceremony. Jim: You are not part of this group, you do not attend meeting Ernie, you didn't work with Dan. The fact that you wanted to do refreshment, have the crowd go into the church for the ceremony is not ok with covid-19 protocols. Also, there was a problem with the speakers at the event, and the lack of music. If you had communicated with Dan, he could have provided the music for the event. He has been providing music for our other events this past year. Bob: I am all for the Veterans commission, but we need to not air our dirty laundry. We need to stop the bickering; I think you as the chairman could appoint the chair of the event. Ernie: If you want me to go, I will go. Jim: That is what I want. Rick: You need to come to meetings Ernie; you need to call people back. Dan and Ernie can both do this together. Ernie is an Honorary Member. Jim: I want this board to run this event. Discussion of the event, advertising. Erie was asked if he still believes he is only responsible to Wreaths Across America and not the Veterans Commission or the Town, he answered yes, I am the coordinator of the private event, Wreaths Across America. Jim: My position is that Dan Morgan will be the coordinator for the event and with Wreaths Across America Organization. If Ernie would still like to help with the event, he is welcome to. Scott: Ernie you seem to enjoy being the master of ceremony, you could continue to do that.

Shed: Ed: The cost of the shed to build would be about \$2500-3000.00, prices are doing nothing but going up. I think we could build one. Discussion of the shed, storage available in the community. The majority of the commission feels it would be possible should build a shed at the American Legion. The American Legion has already approved the shed on their property, they do have insurance, we can add the shed to the policy.

Correspondence: Thank you letter from the Five Corner Cupboard. Discussion of donations, mission statement, and other functions to the Veterans Commission.

Discussion of the letter for scholarships to change the essay, Rick will write the form out.

Motion to purchase street flags for Memorial Day not to exceed \$1000.00, Scott Morgan, Peter Sanders second.
All in favor

Motion to purchase 300 medallions, Peter Sanders, Scott Morgan second.

All in favor

Motion to purchase 7 gross of flags for cemeteries not to exceed \$1200.00, Scott Morgan, Dan Morgan second.
All in favor

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting 8:35 Scott Morgan, Dan Morgan second. All in favor