

East Hartford  
Veteran's Commission  
Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2018

- I. Call to order 7:06 PM.
- II. Roll call:
  - a. In attendance: Joshua Quintana, Awet Tsegai, Melodie Wilson, John Cook, Timothy Siggia, Vincent Parys. Jim Shelmerdine
  - b. Absent: David Whalen
  - c. Joshua Quintana was delayed so the vice chairman, Awet Tsegai, chaired the meeting.
- III. Approval of minutes: Motion was made by Timothy Siggia to approve minutes of the September 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 meeting and was seconded by Vincent Parys. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.
- IV. Public Comment: none
- V. Old Business
  - a. Flag placements and Veteran's Day Events. John Cook reported that he has sent out a press release and is notifying EHHS, CIBA, and Goodwin College asking for volunteers to help place the flags on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. Volunteers are asked to join us at the Hillside Cemetery at 8:00 AM.
  - b. Commissioner Parys reported on the Hartford Veteran's Day parade saying that Hartford will not be having one again this year.
- VI. New Business
  - a. Payment of bills: there were no bills to present.
  - b. East Hartford Veterans' Officer Nominations. Discussion on this was again tabled until it is clarified. Joshua Quintana that he has not yet discussed this with the town attorney to clarify the ambiguity in the Town Ordinances between the Mayor appointing a town employee and the Veterans Commission electing a member but will do so and will report back to the commission.
  - c. New Projects: There has been positive feedback on Commissioner Cook's recommendation to establish a program for high school seniors, including seniors from CIBA and Pathways, to write a biography of a person listed on the Gold Star Memorial list and to award the student with the best biography with a small scholarship award of either \$500 or \$250 out of our budget. Chairman Quintana has not been able to discuss with the town attorney if it's permissible to use a small part of our budget as a scholarship but he will soon and he will report back to the Commission.
  - d. WWI Commemoration Events: the Commission was reminded about the rededication of the WWI Memorial in front of Raymond Library. The event is scheduled for October 20, 2018 at 1:30 PM and commissioners are encouraged to attend. The event is sponsored by the World War I Commemoration Committee. Roger A. Ochs, Post Commander VFW Rochambeau-Elms Post 2083, was in attendance and spoke about the restoration of the monument. It was also mentioned that descendants of Herbert Bryant, who help unveil the monument at it's original dedication in 1929 will participate in the rededication. It was also indicated that the 5 additional names uncovered by Tom Hogan, will be added to names to be read of the fallen.
  - e. Veteran's Resources: a revised listing of resources has been developed and will be shared with the Commissioners. This is for publication on our web site.
- VII. Open floor: We discussed the need for a container to store flags that are waiting to be retired. Some thoughts include a work site container that might be available from Public Works or any other appropriate container where the flags can be properly and respectfully stored until their retirement. Commissioner Wilson mentioned that she has seen drop box facilities at the VA where old flags can be deposited and wonder if that might be an option.

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- VIII.
- IX. Adjournment: Motion was made by John Cook to adjourned at 7:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Tim Siggia and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Submitted by:

Commissioner John Cook