

VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING
740 MAIN STREET
EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
East Hartford Community Cultural Center
March 14, 2023, 7:00 pm

Present: John Cook, Paul Barry, Art Parker, Richard Bates, James Shelmerdine, Jr., Howard Satalino, and Juliet Relph, Clerk.

Also present: Candy Guastamachio- Memorial Day parade committee

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence led by James Shelmerdine, Jr.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner John Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: Amended to include Executive Session.
3. ROLL CALL: As indicated above.
4. OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION – None
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 8, 2023, meeting.

MOTION By Art Parker
Seconded by James Shelmerdine, Jr.
Motion carried 5/0

- ## 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made to go into Executive Session

MOTION By Paul Barry
 Seconded by Howard Satalino.
 Motion carried 6/0

7. COMMUNICATION AND INVOICES – None

- ## 8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Gold Star biography contest for high school seniors who are college bound – Student must reside in East Hartford
 - Public notification – Richard Bates will contact the Gazette.
 - Bio of Gold Star member – List of names on Town website
- b. Expand or create new program for Sophomores and Juniors working with the history department of East Hartford High School
 - Town recognition for best essay - “What memorial day means to me”
 - Student recognized with plaque and gift card.

A motion was made to create a new program for Sophomores and Juniors working with the history department of EHHS. The contest will have as a theme, "What Memorial Day Means to Me". The winner will be awarded a gift card of \$100 and will be highlighted in the Memorial Day program.

MOTION By Richard Bates
 Seconded by Art Parker
 Motion carried 6/0

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Memorial Day Parade Planning
 - i. Suggestions for Keynote speaker
 - Essay winner
 - ii. Publish short statement/bio in program book for recipients of the Veterans Hall of Fame who have been closely associated with East Hartford.
- b. Budget item for Memorial Day Parade
 - i. \$20,000 for this year to be offset by sponsorships.
- c. Memorial Service on Sunday, May 28th at the Bicentennial Park
 - i. Laying of wreath
 - ii. Reading of Gold Star names
 - iii. Bagpiper
 - iv. TAPS
- d. Inventory of grave flags for Memorial Day
 - Will contact EH Public Works for inventory.
 - Need about 2200 flags.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm

MOTION By Paul Barry
 Seconded by Howard Satalino
 Motion carried 6/0

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023

Respectfully submitted by: Juliet D. Relph, Clerk