VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING

740 MAIN STREET

EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

December 12, 2023 7:00 pm

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

Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence led by Richard Bates.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner John Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- 2) AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Discussion of possible having a Youth auxiliary member Approve for reimbursement for refreshments flags placement prior to Veterans Day.

- 3) ROLL CALL: As indicated above.
- 4) OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION None
- 5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES for October 17, 2023, approved with corrections to Old Business Section 7 (e) markers for graves outside designated Veteran's areas. The grave markers cost should be \$14.00 instead of \$15.00.

A motion was made to approve the minutes with the necessary corrections.

MOTION By James Shelmerdine Jr.

Seconded by Robin Parys

Motion carried 8/0

- 6) COMMUNICATION AND INVOICES
 - a) A motion was made to refund Commissioner Cook \$36.60 for coffee and donut during the placement of the flags for Veterans Day.

MOTION By Robin Parys

Seconded by Art Parker

Motion carried 8/0

b) Melody Wilson, a former member, would like to rejoin the Veterans Commission. She is in the process of completing the application.

7) OLD BUSINESS

a) Flag markers

Richard Bates said he was approached by Town Council possibly purchasing flag markers that are available through the VFW for \$14.00 each. It's estimated that 600 plus would be needed.

Commissioner Cook indicated a pilot programs is being done to map out the location of Veteran's graves that are outside of the designated Veteran's areas at Hillside and Silver Lane Cemetries. The intent is to do an inventory of our buried veterans. Students will be volunteering to do mapping of the graves.

A motion was made to table this discussion until the next meeting.

MOTION By Art Parker

Seconded by James Shelmerdine Jr.,

Motion carried 8/0

8) NEW BUSINESS

a) Election of Commission: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer

A motion was made to re-elect the current slate of commissioners. John Cook – Chairman

Paul Barry – Vice Chair.

MOTION By Robin Parys

Seconded by Art Parker Motion carried 8/0

- b) Wreaths at Silver Lane ceremony 1200 hrs on 12/16/2023 Please come out and support the children.
- c) Review of proposed meeting dates for 2024

A motion was made to accept the proposed dates for 2024.

MOTION By Art Parker

Seconded by Paul Barry

Motion carried 8/0

- d) Memorial Day parade 2024 planning
 - 1) Suggestions for:
 - a. Keynote Speaker
 - b. Grand Marshall/s.

It was agreed that a grand Marshall does not have to be a veteran.

Candy Guastamachio suggested Mary Mourey, long time Registrar of Voters be considered Grand Marshall for 2024.

James Shelmerdine Jr. attended a Veterans' picnic at the Senior Center. The Sr. center provided the hall and the Rotary Club provided meals. He said we should send them a thank you letter for a job well done. Candy Guastamachio will draft the letter.

Candy Guastamachio suggested that a student should be part of the Commission as an auxiliary member. She will reach out to EHHS for interested parties.

Flag Retirement Ceremony is scheduled at the Hillside Cemetery – Dec 13, 2023 at 9:30am.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm

MOTION By Paul Barry

Seconded by Art Parker Motion carried 8/0

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 202	The next	meeting i	is so	heduled	for	January	v 9.	2024
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Respectfully submitted by: Juliet D. Relph, Clerk