

**Veterans Affair Committee**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 15, 2023**

PRESENT: W. Willinsky, T. Dickerson, W. Petras, R. Cote, J. Sterry, R. Spooner (A) (A) = Alternate

ABSENT: M. Foreman (A) (Note: R. Farrington has passed away and C. Rouleau resigned.)

OTHERS PRESENT: Corey Anne Armstrong, Bob Hunter, Robert Eldridge.

**1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 1838 at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY**

**3. ACCEPT AGENDA**

**Agenda accepted as written.**

**4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by W. Petras, seconded by J. Sterry to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting as written. **All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**5. SECRETARY'S REPORT (T. Dickerson)**

**No word on replacements for our vacant VAC positions.**

**6. VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT (J. Sterry)**

**Nothing to pass.**

**7. VETERANS BENEFITS & INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT (S. Petras)**

S. Petras handed out a flyer titled: "2022 PACT Act: Understanding Health Care Eligibility and Benefits", which can be found online here:

[https://www.va.gov/files/2022-11/PACT%20Act%20Understanding%20Health%20Care%20and%20Benefits\\_V9.26.22%201130hrs.pdf](https://www.va.gov/files/2022-11/PACT%20Act%20Understanding%20Health%20Care%20and%20Benefits_V9.26.22%201130hrs.pdf)

**8. COMMITTEE ADVISOR'S REPORT (Vacant)**

**Our best understanding is that this is not a required position. It was decided to leave the position vacant for now and fill it in the future if needed.** No one knew if this position was designated in the Board of Selectman's establishment of the VAC or not so we will have to investigate if we need BoS approval to do away with this position.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

W. Willinsky received and passed out several boxes of American flags and will pick up another box this week. The flags passed out have been placed on the veterans' graves at Center cemetery by J. Landry, Trinity cemetery by A. Farrington, and the Swedish cemetery by R. Spooner. T. Dickerson will place the flags at St. Mary's cemetery in the next 2 weeks. W. Willinsky said that M. Tierney, the Town Clerk, will be placing a Thank You letter in the River East Newspaper.

S. Petras passed that the wreaths from Wreathes Across America went up in price to \$17 each for this year.

**11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

A motion was made by J. Sterry, seconded by S. Petras to adjourn the meeting. **All were in favor, motion passed.**  
Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary