

Veterans Affair Committee
REGULAR MEETING
February 27, 2023

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 1835 at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY

We then held a moment of silence in honor of VAC member Reginald Farrington, who recently passed away.

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

Agenda accepted as written.

4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by S. Petras, seconded by R. Spooner to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2022 meeting as written. **All were in favor. Motion passed.**

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT (T. Dickerson)

T. Dickerson shared that with the passing of R. Farrington, we now have 3 vacancies on the VAC as C. Rouleau and M. Foreman have resigned. We discussed possible replacements but also felt we should advertise in the RiverEast newspaper for any Portland Veterans interested in being a member. We will recommend to the Board of Selectman (BoS) that R. Spooner be made fulltime member of the VAC. T. Dickerson will submit a post.

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

Nothing to Pass.

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

Now that C. Rouleau has resigned, S. Petras volunteered to fill this position.

8. COMMITTEE ADVISOR'S REPORT (Vacant)

With the passing of R. Farrington, it was asked whether this position is needed any longer. No one knew if it was designated in the Board of Selectman's establishment of the VAC so we will have to investigate if we need BoS approval or not to do away with this position.

9. OLD BUSINESS

S. Petras stopped into the finance office and received reports on the VAC line of account. We have spent \$1,639 for the purchase of flowers (\$139) and Wreaths Across America (\$1,500). That leaves a remaining balance of \$2,361 for purchasing American Flags for Veterans graves and any future veterans' activities this Fiscal Year. He did not obtain reports on the balances in the Veterans' Monument or Plaque accounts at this time.

10. NEW BUSINESS

W. Willinsky asked S. Petras to pass to the Patriot Guard our thanks for their participation in R. Farrington's funeral.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A motion was made by S. Petras, seconded by W. Willinsky to adjourn the meeting. **All were in favor, motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary