

Veterans Affair Committee
REGULAR MEETING
October 16, 2023

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

ABSENT: R. Cote, J. Sterry, Vacant, M. Foreman (A)

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Hunter, Robert Washington (American Legion District 7 Commander)

1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 1830 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 all others to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting as written. **All were in favor. Motion passed.**

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT (T. Dickerson)

Coreyenne Armstrong was present and had just received her package as a full member of the VAC. Note she had been voted on by the Board of Selectmen at the May 3, 2023 meeting. There is still one vacancy on the VAC.

T. Dickerson also passed that the High School Social Studies Department will be hosting their annual U.S. History Veterans Day Program at 0845 on Thursday Nov 9, 2023 if anyone else was interested in participating.

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

Not present. In response to a question from guest R. Washington, the Town Clerk is the full-time services officer.

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

S. Petras passed that the VA in Newington has flu shots available for veterans.

He also passed that if anyone gets approved under the PACT Act, the VA in Newington has a subcontractor (QTC) that will be contacting them to continue the process.

8. COMMITTEE ADVISOR'S REPORT (To remain vacant unless needed in the future.)

9. OLD BUSINESS

S. Petras passed that there is a large shortage of wreaths statewide. He then made a motion to recommend the town purchase 100 wreaths for Wreathes Across America, the same as we have done in prior years. Ten wreathes are brought back to Portland and the rest are placed on the Veterans graves at the State Veterans cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown. Seconded by W. Willinsky. **All were in favor, motion passed.**

10. NEW BUSINESS

The American Legion Veterans Breakfast is Nov 6, 2023 from 0700 until 1000 unless the food runs out sooner, and the Annual Veterans Day Dinner, provided by Melilli Café and Grill, is Nov 11, 2023 at 1800.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

S. Petras passed that there will be a ceremony on Nov 3, 2023 at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown to bury the cremains of 6 unclaimed veterans from CT.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A motion was made by S. Petras, seconded by R. Spooner to adjourn the meeting. **All were in favor, motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary