

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (VAC)

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday, October 20th, 2014 @ 6:37 P.M.

American Legion Hall
12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut

Members in attendance: R. Farrington-Chairman, T. Dickerson, W. Willinsky, D. Hutchins

Absent: K. Burke, R. Walton, R. Cote, W. Petras, J. Sterry, P. DeRing

Guest(s) in attendance: S. Bransfield

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 18:37.

A motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made by W. Willinsky. D. Hutchins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None was opposed. The motion passed.

The advertisements for the Veterans Day Breakfast sponsored by the American Legion on Nov 8th are out.

The Veterans Day Dinner on Nov 11th at the Portland High School is being advertised on the Town of Portland website and in the River East Paper.

Two dozen Blue Star flags were purchased and will be delivered to the town clerk's office. Information will be put in the River East Paper and Middletown Press explaining the requirements in order to request one. [Post meeting Note: Flags were purchased by the American Legion.]

W. Willinsky passed that W. Petras submitted the order information for the Wreaths across America as discussed previously. The final cost at \$15 each for 100 wreaths was \$1500. A motion was made by W. Willinsky and seconded by D. Hutchins to approve the spending of \$1500 from the Veteran Affairs Committee account. All were in favor. None was opposed. The motion passed.

W. Willinsky asked if anyone was opposed to inviting Pastor James R. Reemts to the Veterans Dinner on Nov 11th as he has always graciously participates in the Memorial Day Parade. None was opposed.

T. Dickerson passed that the Disabled American Veterans would be holding an information meeting in Bristol on Nov 8th to provide veterans with benefit information.

American flags need to be picked up from the graves in the town cemeteries. Saturday, Nov 15th, is the day that we are hoping to do this. R. Farrington will contact Ms. Karch at Portland High School to see if the Key Club was available to assist.

Veterans Day Dinner: How many tickets were given out? Estimates so far are 20-22 at the Town Hall, 10+ at the Senior Center and 40 at Quonset Surplus.

Civil War Monument

One of the walls surrounding the monument is leaning over and needs to be repaired before it collapses. The town (Mr. Rick Kelsey) is looking into it but the town may need some assistance in this renovation. Maybe some type of public/volunteer (private) partnership can be arranged. We will continue monitoring this and see what the town determines.

S. Bransfield will say a few words at the beginning of the Veterans Day dinner.

K. Burke is having school children make thank you cards for veterans.

Valley View Elementary School will be hosting a Veterans Ceremony on Nov 6th at 2:15 pm if anyone can attend. There were no requests from any other schools in town.

A motion to adjourn was made by W. Willinsky. D. Hutchins seconded the motion. All were in favor. None was opposed. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 pm. (Exact time not noted.)

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Nov 17th, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Dickerson