

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (VAC)

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday, March 17th, 2014 @ 6:30 P.M.

American Legion Hall
12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut

Members in attendance: R. Farrington-Chairman, R. Cote, T. Dickerson, W. Willinsky, J. Sterry

Absent: K. Burke, D. Hutchins, R. Walton, P. DeRing, W. Petras

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 1840.

Minutes from prior meeting: W. Willinsky moved to accept the minutes of the February 24th meeting. J. Sterry seconded. All in favor? Minutes accepted.

An error was identified on the published VAC regular meeting schedule. The meetings are normally the 3rd Monday of the month except when the third Monday is a holiday. The published schedule incorrectly listed the March meeting as the 24th and not the 17th. All in attendance agreed to hold the meeting on the 17th as that was the correct date and all were already present.

Farther Paul from Saint Mary's Church agreed to do either the invocation or benediction at the Memorial Day Parade. W. Willinsky will ask Pastor Jim Reemts to do the other.

Ken Schoell passed away last Friday. (Air Force veteran). His wife Fran is a member of the garden club that helps maintain the gardens at the Veterans Memorial Park. Services are this Thursday morning if anyone is available.

W. Willinsky met Mr. Eric Rodko, from St. Luke's Veteran and Eldercare Services. He said that if we run into a situation where a veteran is in need of assistance, he may be able to help.

Any suggestions on who should be the guest speaker for this year's Memorial Day Parade? W. Willinsky suggested he could ask Father Paul as he served in the US Marines. George Planeta IV's name was also brought up as a possible speaker.

R. Farrington will place the newspaper article soliciting for additional veterans' names for the monument/plaque in the next week or two.

J. Sterry, Veterans Service Officer – No current cases.

R. Farrington was asked by Mr. Bruce Wernoff about a picture of a man in a WWI military uniform with the name Stocking on it. He wanted to know what the stripes on the uniform stood for? (Wound bars. Inverted sergeant stripes for overseas. Combat duty stripes.)

Mr. Wernoff said he had not seen the name on the Veteran's Memorial Monument and wondered if it should be there. Discussion was held about possible persons in Portland that this could be. Will Stocking? There was a Stocking farm behind the old school house; near what was the old Stocking ice pond.

VAC to conduct some additional research into this mystery photo.

Possibly contact the Portland Historical Society.

See if he is on the plaque outside the police department

Confirm he is not on the Veteran's Memorial Monument.

Olivia Stocking – Relative?

Try to get his full name

Possible buried at the Center Cemetery

Other people who might know: Rick Kelsey (cemetery maintenance), Elsie Hale (Graystone), Rose (R. Farrington's mother-in-law)

A motion to adjourn was made by J. Sterry. Seconded by R. Cote. All in favor? Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1917.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 21st, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Dickerson