

Veterans Affairs Committee
REGULAR MEETING
March 21, 2016

PRESENT: R. Farrington, J. Sterry, T. Dickerson, R. Cote, P. DeRing, W. Willinsky

ABSENT: K. Burke, W. Petras, F. Hutchings,

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Eldridge (American Legion member)
Julia Mackinnon & Brooke Marino (Portland High School students)

1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman W. Willinsky called the Regular meeting to order at 6:50 PM at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut. The meeting start was delayed waiting for a quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

J. Sterry made a motion, seconded by R. Farrington, to accept the Agenda. All were in favor.

4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

T. Dickerson made a correction to the minutes of February 22, 2016. Under New Business, the Knights of Columbus car show will be on Friday, July 15, 2016. (Not Monday, August 15th as reported.) R. Farrington made a motion, seconded by T. Dickerson, to accept the minutes from the February 22, 2016 meeting as amended. All were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

T. Dickerson passed information about a Veterans Community Forum on March 24, 2016 at Goodwin College. This is an informational event for Veterans, their families, and transitioning Service Members centered around benefits and services available in Connecticut.

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

VSO has no current cases. He provided some information to one client but they have not returned the forms. VSO described what the Connecticut Soldiers, Sailors & Marine Fund is for our High School guests.

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

P. DeRing checked on the status of posting the revised one-sheet read to the town website. T. Dickerson reported it had not been done yet but he would work on it. He asked about adding a link to CTPurplePages.com.

8. COMMISSION ADVISOR'S REPORT (R. Farrington)

R. Farrington passed that there will be a Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home on March 30, 2016 at the State Office Building in Hartford in case anyone was interested.

9. OLD BUSINESS

T. Dickerson had not done it yet but would check the Portland website to see if there were any missing minutes from prior VAC meetings.

W. Willinsky confirmed that a thank you letter had been sent out to the Daughters of the American Revolution for providing a wreath on Veteran's day.

10. NEW BUSINESS

It was asked if anyone knew who replaced Mitchell Foreman at the Service Member and Family Support Center. No one knew.

W. Willinsky passed that he is the veterans' representative on the 175th Anniversary Committee. He said that someone had passed that the Veterans were going to make some type of anniversary coin to be sold. He will try to find out where this came from. To our knowledge, neither the VAC nor the American Legion Post 69 was planning to do this.

The 175th Anniversary Parade is September 10, 2016. It will start at the monument at 0900 and proceed down Main Street to Freestone Avenue. The Youth Services Family day will follow from 1100-1400 on the town green.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

Throughout meeting, explained process and answered questions from our High School guests.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

T. Dickerson made a motion, seconded by J. Sterry to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM. The next Regular meeting is scheduled for April 18th. 2016 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary