

**Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 27, 2017**

PRESENT: W. Willinsky, R. Farrington, T. Dickerson, P. DeRing, R Cote, J. Sterry (arrived late)

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

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

**1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 1837 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**

Accepted.

**4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES**

R. Farrington made a motion, seconded by P. DeRing to accept the minutes from the December 19, 2016 meeting. All were in favor, motion passed.

**5. Secretary's Report**

Read a copy of a thank you letter from the Wreaths Across America organization to the Town of Portland thanking the town for their purchase of wreaths last year.

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

Not present at the beginning. Nothing new to pass after he arrived.

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

P. DeRing said that he will attempt to get some updated information flyers for veterans.

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

R. Farrington passed that someone else will need to contact the Portland High School Key Club to arrange putting flags out in May as he will be unable to do it. He will pass on his contact information to W. Willinsky.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

Wreathes –Across-America –W. Willinsky received an e-mail from someone from East Hampton looking for contact information to get the Wreathes-Across-America to visit their town next year. He provided contact information for S. Petras.

W. Willinsky passed that he received one more name for the plaque.

Discussed sending a thank you letter to Brownstone Barber's for all of the poster's that she creates for free. It was decided that it would be best if this came from the Portland American Legion as that is who the posters were for.

No new information on engraving the flagstones with Frances Schoell's name.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

We need to order some more flags to be placed on veterans' graves this year. We have one box (12 dozen) of new flags. W. Willinsky made a motion, seconded by J. Sterry to request the town purchase 4 more boxes. All were in favor, motion passed.

**11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT**

The American Legion national organization is compiling a database of all monuments, plaques, etc. throughout the United States that honor veterans. Portland's American Legion post will be providing the information for Portland so we listed the following that are in Portland.

- Portland Veteran's Memorial (behind the town hall)
- Plaque (inside the town hall)
- Plaque (Outside the Police Station)
- Civil War Monument (Bartlett Street)
- Plaque (Indian Hill Ave. next to Petzold's Boatyard)
- Flag poles (At each of the cemeteries)
- Plaque (Outside the American Legion Hall)
- Rock (Outside hair salon on Main Street. Not sure what the rock is for.)

If anyone knows of any others, please let a member of the Veteran Affairs Committee or American Legion Post 69 know.

**12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

T. Dickerson made a motion, seconded by W. Willinsky to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1905. The next Regular meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson  
Recording Secretary