

Veterans Affair Committee
REGULAR MEETING
May 20, 2024

PRESENT: W. Willinsky, T. Dickerson, J. Sterry, W. Petras, R. Cote, C. Armstrong, D. Rutter (A)

ABSENT: R. Spooner, R. Hunter (A) (A) = Alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 6:34 PM at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut. (D. Rutter was in attendance, but has not been sworn in yet.)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

Accepted as written.

4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

There was one sentence corrected in last month's minutes under paragraph 1 in **bold**.

“However, after the agenda was accepted as written, ~~two an~~ additional members arrived giving us a quorum, so a Regular meeting was started at that point. (D. Rutter was in attendance, but has not been sworn in yet.)”

A motion was made by J. Sterry, seconded by R. Cote, to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting as amended. **All were in favor. Motion passed.**

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT (T. Dickerson)

Nothing to pass.

W. Willinsky passed that D. Rutter's name was approved by the Board of Selectman and he needs to be sworn in.

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

Nothing new.

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

Nothing new.

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

9. OLD BUSINESS

W. Willinsky reminded everyone again to make sure they complete the annual ethics training and verification form.

W. Willinsky passed that the flags were passed out and placed on the veterans' graves at the town cemeteries. Spare flags are available at the Town Clerk's Office if any veterans' graves were missed.

T. Dickerson mentioned that there is also an old Jewish cemetery on Williams Street. It was unknown if any veterans are buried there so additional investigation will be needed.

W. Willinsky passed that the Town Clerk received a request from a veteran for their name to be placed on the Veterans' Monument. However, they did not have the necessary proof. W. Willinsky contacted the veteran and received acceptable proof that they were a resident of Portland at the time of enlistment. Their name will be added to the monument.

10. NEW BUSINESS

W. Willinsky passed that two names were added to the monument. The current rate is \$12 per letter for a total of \$412.00. (Tax is not charged as this is being purchased by the Town of Portland.)

W. Willinsky passed that he met a veteran in town who was in need of assistance. W. Willinsky worked with the CT State Department of Veterans Affairs to get this veteran assistance. In the end, this veteran went with a family member to the West Haven VA Hospital, where he was admitted for treatment.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A motion was made by S. Petras, seconded by R. Cote to adjourn the meeting. **All were in favor, motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

//S//

Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary