



Approved 9/29/22
Paul A. Purchia
Chair

Patriotic Holiday Committee (PHC) Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Barbara Purchia

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Start: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Paul Purchia, Chair

Present:

Paul Purchia, Chair

Joe Piantedosi, Vice Chair

Bobbie Ennis

John Monahan

James Burton

John Cooper

Barbara Purchia, Secretary

Bopha Malone, Select Board Liaison

Bill Linnehan, Veterans Service Officer (VSO), non-voting

Rob Bowes, American Legion Commander, non-voting (joined at 7:10)

Al Chisholm, VFW Commander, non-voting

Absent:

Jon O'Connor (OC)

Art Smith

Kenneth Mierz, Bedford HS ROTC, non-voting (NOT)

Call to Order:

- Chair Purchia called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm
- Secretary Purchia explained the meeting was being held in compliance with the Governor's order during the pandemic and was being held via Zoom
- Zoom recorded the meeting

Review and accept/reject minutes of meeting of September 23, 2021

- Joe P. moved to accept the amended minutes; John C. seconded
 - The Minutes were accepted by a roll call vote
 - 6 - Ayes; 6:0 (Only voting members who were at the meeting could vote)
- Paul P. to sign accepted minutes and submit the signed minutes to the Town Clerk

Memorial Day 2022 Planning

- Reviewed the 2022 Memorial Day Ceremonies
- Paul P. will contact Brian Bills about offering prayers at the AL, Shawsheen Cemetery, WWI Memorial, and the invocation and benediction at Veterans Memorial Park.
- Paul P. will send prayer to Bill L. for the Shawsheen River prayer.
- Paul P. will check with OC to check with the scouts if they will attend.
- Joe P. will ask the DPW to provide chairs for the Shawsheen Cemetery as well as check with Dave Manugian for 150 – 200 chairs for Veterans Memorial Park, the wreaths (7), audio equipment and podium, and planting flowers around the Veterans Memorial Park sign.
- John C. will check on getting a car to bring folks needing a ride from the AL to Shawsheen Cemetery.
- Paul P. will contact Don Corey to see who will talk at the Old Burying Ground.
- Paul P. will contact Terrence Parker about giving a brief history about the ex-slaves at the Old Burying Ground.
- Barbara P. will drive her convertible for the Grand Marshal.
- Paul P. will confirm with the VA if they will have the Trim Tram available for veterans.
- Paul P. will check with Col. Stephens to make sure that she is available and will be able to give the keynote.
- Paul P. will contact Jim Felker for BHS band and TAPS participation.
- Paul P. will contact Emily Mitchell, Ken Gordon, and Mike Barrett to speak at the ceremony.
- Paul P. will contact the Presidents of the VFW and AL Auxiliaries to participate.
- Rob B. will check on lunch at the AL.
- Paul P. will contact Bedford High School to reserve the auditorium in case of rain.
- Paul P. will notify all speakers to speak no more than 5 minutes.
- Paul P. will contact Ken Mierz about JROTC participation.
- James B. and Bill L. will organize the parade order.
- John C. will get new flags for the Armed Forces holders and will place them around the Veterans Memorial Park sign.
- There will not be any essay contest in 2022.
- Paul P. will update the events calendar and speakers.

Nominations for 2022 Grand Marshal(s)

- Suggestions:
 - John Cooper will think about it
 - Peter Orlando (John Cooper will contact him)
 - Arthur Conrad
 - John Monahan declined

Rifles Update: Storage/Restoration Plans

- Rifle Volleys-Joe P. new safe for rifles, inventory of 15 rifles,7 rifles are set for volleys. Send email to all of AL and VFW to ask for volunteers to be on Honor Guard. Joe will train them on rifle usage. Would like at least 2 people. Have rifles that are easier to use. Once select rifle squad, the e-boards should approve them. Would prefer AL and VFW members on Honor Guard. Will send script to Rob B. and Al C. to send out the email.
- Rob B. will check on the Honor Guard.
- Rob B. will help drive the rifles from the AL to Mudge Way.
- Have list of deceased veterans. Need terms of service for a few of them. Joe will send the committee the list.

BHS ROTC Update-Ken Mierz – Not present

Bedford Veteran's Agent Report – Bill Linnehan

- Have new database to access information from the Veterans Service DB.
- Any veteran who applied for benefits prior to January 1 will get COLA increase of \$79/month in addition to regular pay. Will get credits for those homeless vets who were at the VA. \$24,684 went to Bedford.

Open Discussion Items

Memorial Day brochure & distribution - Paul waiting to hear from OC

Schedule next meeting

- Paul P. will schedule if another meeting is needed.

Adjourn

- Joe moved to adjourn; Bobbie seconded
 - Roll Call Vote: 7– Ayes, 0 – No; 7-0
 - The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm