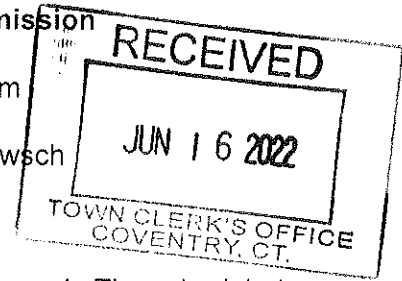


Coventry Veterans Memorial & Events Commission

June 14, 2022 -- Meeting Minutes
Location: Town Hall, #B Conference Room



Attendance: Peter DePaola, Jamie DePaola, Bill Glenney, Rick Nowsch

Meeting called to order: 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from April 12, 2022, meeting was approved. The scheduled meeting for May 10, 2022, was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Peter and Jamie did, however, meet at that time with Jean Risley and Claire Twerdy from the CT Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Inc. who provided information and documentation pertaining to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument located in Coventry.

Old Business:

- CT Gold Star Families Memorial Monument: The dedication was April 23rd in at the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park, and it was well attended. This monument is especially important to the families where their loved one may be buried in Arlington National Cemetery or a foreign land such as Normandy, North Africa, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, etc., or their loved one might be MIA.
- Clean-up of monuments on Veterans Memorial Green: This was scheduled for April 30th, and all commission members participated. Peter spoke with DPW afterwards requesting cleaning supplies for future clean-up days and they agreed. It was recommended by a passer-by, who appreciated our efforts, to post notices in town encouraging others to participate as a community clean-up.
 - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial needs to be resealed. Mike Sicard volunteered to power wash the patio plaza
- State of CT Event to honor Korean War & Vietnam War veterans: Names of those who submitted form were forwarded to the state.
- CT Honor Flight for WWII and Korean War Veterans: 42 CT veterans participated on June 5th.

New Business:

- Update on CT Vietnam War Monument Repairs: Met with Claire Twerdy and Jean Risely on May 10th. There are funds left in their CT Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Inc. account and they would like to transfer responsibility.
 - The dislodged medallion was reinstalled on the monument in May.
 - Waiting on 2 bids for repair of the monument. Apparently, the monument is not pinned, hence the shifting from the base.
 - Once the bid is received, we can proceed with submitting the grant to the Town for their submission to the State for a grant. Peter already completed a draft of the grant proposal, just needs the estimate for the repairs in order to submit to the Town.
- Local Veteran Resource Booklet & Communications:
 - Jamie provided the latest draft of the booklet. She met with Annemarie Sundgren who is the Coventry VSO / Human Resources Administrator. Jamie shared the booklet with her and will have revisions by next meeting.
 - Annemarie was invited to join the July 12th meeting to share her goals with the Veterans Commission and to map out a better communications plan with

Coventry veterans. She suggested we consider having a Meet & Greet for town veterans to capture the younger veterans.

- The American Legion and VFW in town does an amazing job with the senior citizen veterans and the Senior Citizen Building has veteran-related material on site.
- Need to get deadlines for the Coventry quarterly newsletter and monthly email blast to share Veteran updates.
- Bill recommended we set up 12 email blast notices (one per month) and submit to the Town, so we do not need to worry about deadlines. We are still working on setting up a foundation to build from on this idea. He also recommended we include input from the students in various projects around Veterans Day.
- Bill suggested we consider setting up an informational table at the Farmers' Market once we have the brochure completed. This will provide a visual to help direct veterans of what is available to them.
- Rick discussed that we reach out to the 50-year-old and under veteran who currently has children in the school system and get acquainted. They need to be the target audience since that population is rapidly growing.
- We discussed the idea of a Meet & Greet for the younger veterans and will propose to the Town to plan that around the anniversary in August of the end of the 20-year war. Annemarie is eager to work with the commission on this idea.
- Peter recommended to update the Town's webpage for veterans so it's easy to navigate. A good example is Columbia's page: <https://www.columbiact.org/search/site/veterans> which provides direct links for veterans with one click.
- Jamie recommended the Town updates forms when residents move into Town or have a change of address, etc. to include a box to check if they are a veteran. The Town should try to collect this data and the "box" is voluntary.

Other Events: June 14th celebrated 245 years of Old Glory. The American Legion Post 52 and the Boy Scouts Troop 65 organized a flag retirement ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Green. "Crazy Horse Gym" from Coventry organized a flag run and they timed it around the closing of the flag retirement ceremony. (See attached social media press release.)

Meeting adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall #B.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie DePaola
Coventry VMEC Secretary