

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD**  
**COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 PM**

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, 7:10 PM**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Garrett Sheehan (Chair), John Johnson, John Rixon, Adam Raider (Secretary), Chris Barnes (Council Liaison), Renee McCue (Town of West Hartford). Excused: Harriet Winograd. Absent: Louise Psaras.

Mr. Sheehan welcomed Mr. Barnes to his first meeting of the Commission as Town Council Liaison. Mr. Barnes shared a resume of a resident who expressed interest in joining the Commission and offered to speak about the Commission's work at the next Town Council meeting.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Sheehan moved and Mr. Johnson seconded to approve the meeting minutes from December 11, 2018. Motion passes.

**4. 2019 Memorial Day Parade**

Beginning preparations for the parade, Ms. McCue asked the Commission for suggestions for Grand Marshal, keynote speaker, invocation, etc. Several candidates for Grand Marshall were discussed, and Mr. Rixon said he would approach two in particular – John Dahaher, Jr. and Norman Bramley – to gauge their interest. Paul Vicinus was mentioned as a strong candidate for master of ceremonies. The group discussed ideas for how to get more spectators to attend the speaking program immediately following the parade at Connecticut Veterans Memorial.

**5. Communications Planning**

Continuing discussion about outreach from previous meeting, Mr. Raider asked if the Commission should be using print or electronic media to remind resident veterans of the benefits to which they might be entitled through VA. At this time, Mr. Sheehan preferred to focus on efforts to publicize the Memorial Day parade and the speaking program.

**6. CT Military Community Coalition**

The Commission welcomed guest Marie Goodine, a West Hartford resident who works in the field of hospice care and is active with the We Honor Veterans program. At the invitation of Mr. Raider, Ms. Goodine spoke about the CT Military Community Coalition, a network of over 250 individuals and agencies that share resources to assist veterans throughout the area. She suggested the Coalition could be useful in finding a clergyman to deliver the invocation on Memorial Day.

## **7. 2019 Meeting and Events Schedule**

The Commission received and reviewed an updated meeting and events schedule for 2019. Mr. Sheehan suggested the Commission meet next on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 to continue planning for the Memorial Day Parade.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sheehan moved and Mr. Raider seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Next meeting will be on 4/24/19 at 7:00 PM in Room 308.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Raider". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Adam Raider  
Commission Secretary