

**MINUTES
TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018, 7:00 PM**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, 7:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Garrett Sheehan, John Johnson, Adam Raider, John Rixon. Excused: Harriet Winograd. Term expired: Janet Fournier. Resigned: Shannan Morris. Status unknown: Louise Psaras (appointed 3-27-18)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rixon moved and Mr. Johnson seconded to approve the meeting minutes from 6/11/18. Mr. Sheehan abstained because he was not in attendance on 6/11/18.

4. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Agenda item skipped because newest member, Shannan Morris, resigned from Commission prior to first meeting. Mr. Raider will check with Town Clerk regarding status of Louise Psaras.

5. STATUS OF LETTERS TO VETERAN NEXT-OF-KIN INITIATIVE

Commission discussed feasibility of sending letters of condolence to next-of-kin of recently passed resident veterans. Although Commission members felt this was a good suggestion on the part of Ms. Winograd, they agreed that there were too many obstacles at present to do these mailings effectively, chief among them having to manually scan obituaries and research home addresses. Mr. Sheehan preferred that the Commission focus on ways to communicate with all current resident veterans. Mr. Raider will check with Town Clerk to see (A) if such a database exists and (B) if the Commission might have access to it.

6. VETERAN DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Commission discussed feasibility of a discount program for West Hartford veterans to be offered by businesses in town. Among the issues requiring further discussion: What businesses would be approached? Who would approach them? How would participating businesses be identified and publicized?

7. STATUS OF COMMISSION'S TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Raider noted that Town website does not currently list a Town Council liaison for the Commission. Mr. Sheehan stated that former councilman Denise Hall was the most recent liaison, and that responsibility may have shifted to someone else. Mr. Raider will investigate and report back to the Commission.

8. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Mr. Sheehan observed that at 2017 parade, most spectators left at conclusion of parade and did not stay to attend the ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in West Hartford Center. He would like to increase awareness of – and attendance at – the ceremony.

9. ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANSION OF MISSION

Mr. Rixon said the Commission had previously inquired about West Hartford offering free access to town pools for high schoolers entering military service, but had not received a definitive answer. Prior to 12/10/18 meeting, Commission members will reach out to Veteran Affairs Commissions in other municipalities to determine if there other ways in which we might improve the lives of West Hartford's veterans.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sheehan moved and Mr. Raider seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Next meeting will be 12/10/18 at 7:00 PM.



Adam Raider
Commission Secretary