

MINUTES
TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Tuesday, April 19, 2023, 7:00 PM

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, 7:03 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Inga Bowes, Alexis Davidoff, Jeremy Donnelly (Co-Chair), Matt Hart, John Johnson, John Keleher, Adam Raider (Secretary). Absent: Na'eelah Bakari (Co-Chair). Guests: Heidi-Anne Mooney (Commander of American Legion Post 96), John Mele, Rolf Knoll

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hart made a motion to accept the minutes from the Commission's meeting on March 21, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Keleher.

4. GUEST: KEREN PAQUETTE, MANAGER OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

Ms. Paquette spoke to the Commission about the role that the Department of Social Services plays in connecting all residents – including veterans – with various services. Among the department's six social workers, she is the liaison with the VA. Ms. Paquette brought samples of the informational materials used by her office, including pamphlets on veteran resources and income-based veteran benefits (i.e., tax exemption). Commission members discussed the possibility of organizing a mailing to provide veterans in town with these materials, as it would be in keeping with our mission "to increase awareness among veterans as to the benefits for which they may be eligible." Considerations: does anyone have an up-to-date mailing list (likely Town Clerk's Office and Office of the Assessor) and how would such a mailing be funded, since Veterans Commission has no money allocated under current budget. Ms. Mooney interjected that the American Legion might be able to fund such an initiative. Other suggestions included a veterans' benefit fair. More discussion is needed.

5. AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE – HEIDI-ANNE MOONEY

Ms. Mooney discussed upcoming functions of the American Legion, including the town's Memorial Day ceremony and the Class of 2023 Military Inductee dinner. All members of the Commission were invited to attend.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Raider made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 PM, seconded by Mr. Hart.