

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
VFW Post 6467
February 13, 2021**

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called To Order at 11:07 AM

2. Open Public Meeting Statement

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, the notice requirements have satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this meeting was provided to the Record, Star Ledger, Twin Boro News and Cablevision, posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the borough website and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call	Present	Absent	Excused
John Smith	X		
John Opatovsky	X		
Warren Williams	X		
Kevin Clancy			Incap Svc
Thomas Lang	X		
Richard Morf	X		
Ralph Ritter			Incap Svc
Fred Sahlberg	X		
Joseph Sokol		X	
John Smith	X		
Amos White	X		
Rafael Marte	X		

4. Salute to the Flag

Pledge of Allegiance led by John Opatovsky

5. Changes to the Agenda

No additions/revisions or deletions at this time

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion Offered by Committee Member Thomas Lang and **Second** by Committee Member Amos White, to approve minutes of the January 09, 2021 Regular Committee Meeting. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

7. Correspondence

A. COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans.

Fred Sahlberg informed members of the Veterans Committee the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Lyons Medical Center, will start getting COVID-19 vaccine shots to veterans 65 and over as of this date February 13, 2021. Warren Williams, also added the VA Medical Center in East Orange are now scheduling appointments for veterans to get their COVID-19 vaccine shots. The location VA Clinic in Hackensack are calling veterans to schedule appointments. **Motion Offered** by Committee Vice Chairman John Opatovsky and **Second** by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg, to pass on this VA COVID-19 vaccines for veterans to Mayor and Council to post this VA vaccines information on the Borough of Bergenfield Facebook, VFW Post Face book and DAV Facebook pages. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

B. Open Public Records At Requests

1. Civil Service Exam listings for positions with in the Police Department for the Borough of Bergenfield. Warren Williams and Fred Sahlberg, submitted "Open Public Records Requests (OPERA)" from the Borough of Bergenfield for or copies of the recent Civil Service Exam listings for positions with in the Police Department for the Borough of Bergenfield and listing of all current and/or upcoming vacant borough positions. Both Warren Williams and Fred Sahlberg received. **Motion Offered** by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg and **Second** by Committee Secretary Warren Williams, that the committee table the issue about Civil Service Exam Results listing at later date, so that Fred Sahlberg to follow up in getting additional information on the hiring process from the Civil Service Commission. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

2. Correspondence with Public Service Gas and Electric (PSG&E) and the Borough of Bergenfield, regards to installing electric power line for the U.S Flag Pole at Bergenfield Veterans Memorial Park. Warren Williams, informed the committee member at this Veterans Committee, an "Open Public Records Request" was submitted to the Borough of Bergenfield for copies of all emails, telephone calls, text messages and letters by the Borough of Bergenfield, the Mayor and Council, the Borough Administrator and any other borough office personnel who been corresponding with Public Service Gas and Electric (PSG&E) in regards to installing electric power line for the U.S Flag Pole at Bergenfield Veterans Memorial Park, so the U.S. Flag is properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. Warren Williams will be submitting a letter to the President & Chief Executive Officer for assistance to power line issued at Veterans Memorial Park. **Motion Offered** by Committee Secretary Warren Williams and **Second** by Committee Amos White, Committee to have Warren Williams to continue working the letter to the President/ CEO of Public Service Gas and Electric (PSG&E) to install the electric power line for the U.S Flag Pole at Bergenfield Veterans Memorial Park. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

8. Verbal Communications

1. Welcome New Committee Member (Richard Morf)

Committee Chairman John Smith introduce the Mr. Richard Morf as the new member to Veterans Committee. **Motion Offered** by Committee Chairman John Smith and **Second** by Committee Member Thomas Lang to welcome Richard Morf to the Bergenfield Advisory Committee and present Richard Morf a Veterans Committee Challenge Coin as an official member to the committee. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

2. Illness of Kevin Clancy.

Committee Chairman John Smith, informed the committee an update pertaining to the illness of Kevin Clancy. Kevin Clancy bee a long time member of the Veterans Committee and a lifetime member of VFW Post 6467. John Smith received some updated information of the status of Kevin Clancy from this wife Elaine Clancy, is now standing at Paramus Veterans Memorial Home due to the status of his illness. John Smith stated, after hearing about Kevin Clancy condition. John Smith has a Good Well Gift basket delivered to the Clancy family home in care of Kevin Clancy, This gift basket was from the Veterans Committee and VFW Post 6467, in wishing Kevin Clancy speedy recovery and moral support to family.

3. Special Guest

Committee Vice Chairman/ DAV-32 Commander John Opatovsky introduce the Mr. Wilfred Selby to the members of Veterans Committee. The committee members welcome Mr. Selby to the meeting and welcome his suggestions to better services our veterans within community. Mr. Selby is a member of the DAV Chapter-32 in Bergenfield. **Motion Offered** by Vice Chairman John Opatovsky and **Second** by Committee Member Thomas Lang to have appoint Mr. Wilfred Selby as member to veterans committee.

4. Damage US Flags at Local Business

Committee Secretary Warren Williams, updated the committee on the status and results of the two damage US Flags on Washington Ave, the Delta Gas Station next door to Borough Municipal Building and Brownstone Dinner across the street from Forster Village shopping plaza. The Veterans Committee got involved in this matter due to a concern resident of Bergenfield, Mrs Mary Sullivan, who contacted the committee to take action. This matter was bring up at the Mayor and Council meeting, January 19, 2021 by Warren Williams, to has the borough PD inform the business owners about replace the damage flags. As of January 23, 2021 both damage flags were replace with new US Flags, with the assistance of Councilman Marc Pascual by visiting the two business and giving them a new US Flags. A special thank you to Mrs. Mary Sullivan by supporting our veterans and the respect to our nations flag.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Veterans Memorial Park (UpGrade Project)

Committee Chairman John Smith, presented updated information pertaining to committee's a plan to upgrade Veterans Memorial Park monument section. A brief meeting with Borough Administrator Corey Gallo, disagrees with committee's plan to Veterans Memorial Park upgrade. John Smith, explained to the committee members, that this committee with continue to work toward a plan by reaching out to a professional architect to assist this committee to develop solid plans and drawing to present to governing body of Bergenfield. John Smith, also recommend that he will meeting borough grant writer and try to request federal and state grants from Green Tree and veterans funds to assist with the funding of propose upgrade project. **Motion Offered** by Committee Chairman John Smith and **Second** by Committee Member Thomas Lang, to continue to initiate the committee's plan to upgrade Veterans Memorial Park monument section and the committee with start working basic propose area layout in the near future. All present voting in favor and none opposed

B. Bergenfield Veterans Web Site

Committee Chairman John Smith, presented updated information about the creation the Bergenfield Veterans Web Site to the committee members. The website has been created. The Veterans Committee website still requires some minor changes and update information. Committee Chairman John Smith has task each committee member to look over the website and recommend some ideal or changes by next month meeting. **Motion Offered** by Committee Secretary Warren Williams and **Second** by Committee

Member Thomas Lang, to approve the website and have all committee member to submit there ideals or changes at the next committee meeting and have the website to be active by May 2021 or sooner. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

C. Memorial Day Parade Planning

1. Change Parade Route:

Committee Chairman John Smith, presented a recommendation that the Memorial Day Parade route should be as follows:

a). Coopers Pond – West Church Street will be staging area and starting point for parade. The parade elements will leave Coopers pond heading west to South Prospect Ave. Then make left hand turn on to South Prospect Ave, were all parade elements will continue down South Prospect to New Bridge Road and then make left hand turn on to New Bridge Road to main entrance in to Veterans Memorial Park were the Grand Stand with the Mayor of Bergenfield and other VIPs and Special Guest, which the parade will end at Veterans Memorial Park on New Bridge Road. John Smith will follow up with governing body if 2021 Memorial Day Parade if approved, base on the statues of COVID-19 virus requirement has changed. If the Memorial Day Parade is unable to perform. The Memorial Day ceremony will be in front of Borough Municipal Building in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines. Meeting with Borough Administrator and other Borough Department leaders need to schedule very sooner. Committee Chairman John Smith with reach out to the Borough Administrator to setup meeting.

2. Prepare and Submit Request for Honor Guards and Military Vehicles and Etc

a). Request for Military Vehicles and Honor Guards, was submitted by Committee Secretary Warren Williams as of January 14, 2021. The "Request for Armed Forces Participation in Public Events (DD Form 2536) was forwarded to the Headquarters of the New Jersey Army National Guard via email on January 14, 2021, requesting personal and equipment from the local National Guard Armory, located in Teaneck, NJ. Warren Williams, informed the committee members, that he was follow up of the request and the status each month until 30 days before of the schedule event.

b). Recommendation to have a Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade.

Committee Vice Chairman John Opatovsky, asked about the status of the Grand Marshall for the Memorial Day Parade and the ideal to have the oldest veteran and/or veterans and to have a female and male veterans as parade Grand marshal. Committee Chairman John Smith stated that No names have been submitted to the committee. John Smith recommend the DAV and VFW need to start submitting their nominees names and bio sketch packet at the next committee meeting.

D. Placing Veterans Banners on (Washington Ave/New Bridge Road & S. Prospect Ave) Street Poles. Committee Chairman John Smith, need to meet with Mayor and Council governing body, to discuss the about placing veterans banners on the three main streets (Washington Ave/New Bridge Road & S. Prospect Ave) Street Poles.

8. New Business

A. Table Ideals for Committee Shirts, Jackets, or Caps w/logos

Committee Secretary Warren Williams recommend that the Veterans Committee, should come up with ideals for the Veterans Committee to have some form of identity when attending Mayor and Council meetings, special events or ceremonies, so that the public know about the Veterans Committee is here to service and care for veterans first in the Borough of Bergenfield. John Smith asked the committee

members to come up with some ideas and samples at the February and March meeting, to select what type of items with logo to represent this committee.

B. OPERA Request

1. Police Department Civil Service Exam List & Vacant Positions

Fred Sahlberg request that the Veterans Committee to inquiry about the two opening for the Bergenfield Police Department were filled with two lateral transfer officers from Paterson. Committee Chairman John Smith, recommend that the committee will submit an OPERA Request for the current Civil Service Eligible list for appointment. The committee has received a copy of the Civil Service List for Certification of Eligible for Appointment date November 14, 2020 which a copy was forwarded to Fred Sahlberg for follow up with three veterans posted on the list.

C. Table Ideal for Challenge Coin Ceremony & Register

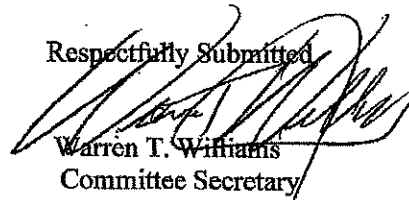
Committee Secretary Warren Williams recommend that the Veterans Committee, should setup a challenge coin ceremony to present to a committee members upon being appointed the Veterans Committee. The presentation of the challenge coin will be in a ceremonial format when a new appointee been approved by the Mayo & Council Challenge Coin Ceremony maybe conducted during committee's regular meeting, during the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony or during the Mayor & Council Annual Reorganization Meeting. **Motion Offered** by John Smith and **Second** by Amos White, to approve the creation of the Challenge Coin Program and to have Warren Williams, to create the Challenge Coin Ceremony protocols and coin register. All present voting in favor and none opposed

D. John Opatovsky, requested assistance for DAV Chapter to have the Veterans Committee to assist the Bergenfield DAV Chapter, to get a storage container for DAV to be laced on the their property. The storage container is for additional storage place for wheel chairs, electric wheel chair & scooters for Disable veterans. Councilman Rafael Marte, will meet with Borough Administrator Cory Gallo to assist with DAV in a getting storage container. To get the container approve, it must get approval by the Railroad company, since the DAV property is right next to railroad track. Councilman Rafael Marte will bring up at the next Mayor & Council Meeting.

9. Adjournment

Motion Offered by John Smith and **Second** by Amos White, to adjourned the meeting and announce next month meeting on March 13, 2021 held at the DAV Chapter 32 at 11:00AM. There being no further business to come before the Veterans Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted



Warren T. Williams
Committee Secretary