

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 18, 2023**

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:09 AM

2. Chairman's Statement

Committee Chairman John Smith called the to order with the reading of the Open Public Meeting Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this meeting will be posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the website for the Borough of Bergenfield and the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call	Present	Absent	Excused
Edgar Garcia, Member	X		
Thomas Lang, Member	X		
Rafael Marte, Council Liaison	X		
Richard Morf, Member	X		
Dina Moore, Member	X		
Willie Moree Jr, Member	X		
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin	X		
Alexandra Rodriguez, Member		X	
Fred Sahlberg, Member	X		
Wilfred Selby, Member	X		
Joseph Sokol, Member		X	
John Smith, Chairman	X		
Benjamin Whaley, Member		X	
Amos White, Member			X
Warren Williams, Secretary	X		

4. Flag Salute

Pledge of Allegiance led by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg

5. Invocation (Chaplin)

Invocation given by Committee Member Thomas Lang

6. Agenda Changes (Additions/Deletion or Revisions)

No Additions/Deletion or Revisions

7. Approval of Minutes (January 2023)

Motion Offered by Committee Member Thomas Lang and **Second** by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg to approve the minutes for January 21, 2023, regular committee meeting minutes and publish the minutes on the committee's website. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

8. Treasury Report (January 2023)

Committee Member Warren Williams updated the committee with the monthly treasury report for the period of December 17, 2022 through January 2, 2023. The current balance of funds available is 2,286.63. recommend that \$200.00 donations to paid for 10 tickets for the USO Dance. There are no other expenses or billing transactions during this month's recording period. **Motion Offered** by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg and **Second** by Committee Member Dina Moore to approve the committee's treasury report for the period of December 17, 2022 through January 21, 2023. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

9. Presentation/ Correspondence

A. Presentation: None

B. Correspondence: Committee Chairman John Smith informed the committee pertaining to a telephone call from the Commander of the Cresskill American Legion Post in reference to donations for the Bergenfield Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter-32, to raise funds to replace the DAV transportation Vans. This matter was given to the other committee member for decision. Committee Member Warren Williams recommend that this matter pertaining to the DAV Van needs to be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting and to get more information about what's going on with the DAV Van issue. Committee Member Wilfred Selby will follow up with the DAV Van matter.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Ole School Style USO Dance (March 10, 2023)

Committee Chairman informed the committee that there will be banners being donated by two (2) major local companies. These banners will be placed in the center of the Bergenfield business area. The other matter about the USO Dance is that a contract of agreement must be signed to give VFW Post the authorization to use the USO logo. This agreement contract is waiting for a change to the USO contract the committee is requesting that Councilman Rafael Marte, to get the Borough Council to approve the placement the USO Dance Street Banners at the next Major and Council Meeting and have the information out to the residents by using the robot-call message system, the borough's webpage/Facebook and the digital information bulletin board. Ticket sales are going very well.

B. Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation Ceremony (April 22, 2023).

Committee Member Warren Williams give the committee update information about the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Ceremony and the sign-up process . This year 2023 is the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The VFW and The Veterans Committee are planning to have the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation for the Vietnam War Veterans of Bergenfield will be on April 22nd, 2023. This Commemoration Lapel Pin is for all United States veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at any time during the Vietnam War Era (November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975), regardless of location of service. Committee Member Warren Williams is request that Councilman Rafael Marte, to get the Borough Administrator to place the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin information out to the veterans of Bergenfield to register for this lapel pin. The date of the actual presentation ceremony is planned for April 22nd. There will be more updated information by the next committee meeting.

11. New Business

A. Pre-Planning for Events for 2023.

1. Grand Marshal Nomination for 2023 (Update): The committee has approved the nomination selection for Grand Marshal for the 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade is Mr. Peter Mathews. Peter Mathews is a Bergenfield resident and Vietnam War Veteran; He served in the U.S. Army as a sergeant with 1st Cavalry. The committee approved Peter Mathews for this year Grand Marshal, to due this long-time effort working to relocate the family members of North Vietnamese soldier's diary that Peter Mathews, recovered from the battle of Dak To (Hamburger Hill) in November 1967. Peter Mathews has finally located the family members of North Vietnamese soldier who was KIA in the battle of Dak To, were Mr. Mathews is schedule to return the country of Vietnam to meet with dead soldier's family and to return the diary after a long-time search of 50 years. Peter Mathews is a member of the Bergenfield VFW Post which the members of Veterans Committee and VFW Post great appreciate Peter Mathews great efforts and service in preserving some history of the Vietnam War.

12. Good of the Order

A. PACT Act Enrollment Event- Lyons VA Center (February 2, 2023)

Committee Member Edgar Garcia attended the PACT Act Enrollment Event- Lyons VA Center.

This PACT ACT Enrollment Event was for veterans who may have experienced various forms of toxic exposures during their military service. This event will assist any veteran who needs assistance to enroll into the VA health system and provide screening and health care and resources. The PACT ACT is for all veterans who may have possible exposures to some of following; Opening Burn Pits/Airborne Hazards, Gulf War Related Exposures, Agent Orange, Radiation, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water Exposure and other exposures that may occur during military service. Its very important that veterans who haven't register or enrolled into the VA Health System to do so now.

B. Veterans / Surviving DIC Assistance (Update)

C. Colonel Floyd Thompson Project (Update)

Committee Member Warren Williams, informed the committee as of January 27, 2023 that the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, has Officially accessed the enrollment of Colonel Floyd James Thompson into the Purple Heart Hall of Honor and his story is now posted in the Hall of Honor database and placed in the Purple Heart Center located in Vails Gates, NY.

13. Verbal Communications

No Public Verbal Comments

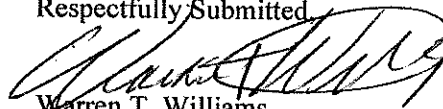
14. Committee Comments

No Committee Comments.

15. Adjournment

Motion Offered by Committee Member Fred Sahlberg and **Second** by Committee Member Thomas Lang to adjourn the meeting. The next schedule committee meeting will be on Saturday, March 18th, 2023, time-10:00AM, at the VFW Post. There being no further business to come before the Veterans Committee. This meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Warren T. Williams
Sgt Major (Retired), USA
Committee Secretary