



Town of York

186 York Street
York, Maine 03909-1314

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York Maine Committee for Veterans Affairs Meeting Minutes 6pm, February 8, 2022 York Public Library

Members present: Bill Blaisdell, Jimmy Carabello, Lew DiTommaso, Michael Dow, Wade Fox, Mel Spelman, Barry Waddell. Absent: Roger Clements

Call To Order

Barry Waddell called the Committee for Veterans Affairs (CVA) to order @ 6:03pm

- Minutes of 11/23/2021
Motion to approve, Mel Spelman, Jimmy Carabello seconded, approved 6-0.
- Budget Status, Bill Blaisdell
 - Barry reviewed the new protocols for motions/expenditures to be performed at the conclusion of each meeting.
 - Roll over approved (obligated) expenses at the start of each FY.
 - Maintain records of all obligated funds. (Note that any \$\$ not spent by the end of June, said \$\$ does not carry over to the new FY)
 - Barry motioned to approve funding not to exceed \$1700 to purchase one 32" x 30" high marker; To include lettering and installation at First Parish Cemetery (excluding foundation) to mark the location of buried remains of unserviceable American flags. Jimmy seconded, approved 6-0.
 - Barry motioned to approve a new street banner to honor George Moore. No additional funding is required. Bill seconded, approved 6-0.
 - Barry motioned to approve funding not to exceed \$600 to replace 2 existing damaged street banners. Jimmy seconded, approved 6-0.



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- Barry motioned to approve funding not to exceed \$200 for picture modifications, copies and incidentals relating to the maintenance of street banners. (Note: some of this \$200 has already been spent,). Bill seconded, approved 6-0.
- Barry motioned to approve the funding of \$474.99 for the banner to honor veterans in conjunction with the Wreaths Across America (WAA) parade. (Note: this rectifies an administrative error of omission of a vote taken but not recorded in the minutes of October 2021. Funds are already expended). Lew seconded, approved 6-0.
- Jimmy motioned to approve funding not to exceed \$400 to purchase three Purple Heart Entity Flags, Barry seconded, approved 6-0.

C. Chairman Report, Barry Waddell.

- Flag Retirement. Barry motioned to approve the following inscription on a stone marker to be placed in First parish Cemetery, York Maine, at the site of the burial of retired American flags: "This vault contains the ashes of retired American flags, worn out in worthy service" (A carved depiction of a US Flag in the center of the monument) "Tis the star-spangled banner-O long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!" Jimmy seconded, approved 6-0.
- Barry motioned to approve the following inscription at the base of said monument: "Town of York Maine 2022" Jimmy seconded, approved 6-0.
- Memorial Day Parade. Full speed ahead. TBD if there will be a participation of York School bands. To date the Piscataqua Junior Rangers have committed to provide their talents. Barry nominated a 3 person committee to organize the parade. The committee will consist of Barry, Jimmy and Wade. Jimmy seconded, approved 6-0
- Upcoming calendar events were reviewed, including the aforementioned Memorial Day Parade, Flag Day and Veterans Day.



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- Recruitment of new CVA members. Barry announced he will be retiring in June 2022 at the conclusion of his term. A new Chairman will have to be chosen. Bill has yet to decide if he will remain with CVA or retire at the conclusion of his term, June 2022. CVA will perhaps need up to 3 new members.
- A proposal was made by Barry for the process to elect the new Chairman by the next meeting on 2/22/22.

D. York Schools, Roger Clements in absentia via email.

- “End of this month (next week) I will send an email with York Schools update. Quiet time right now -- the schools keep trying to reboot from Christmas break, COVID break, February break coming.....etc. Too much start/stop is frustrating teachers trying to just get minimum schooling in.”

E. WAA Update, Lew DiTommaso.

- Feedback from the 2021 event. Overall, a fantastic day. WAA laid 1092 wreaths at First parish Cemetery. The ceremony featured representatives from all US military branches. Wreaths were laid by said representatives at the bases of their respective branch monuments. The ceremony was emceed by myself. A fine rendition of “Taps” was performed by Tyler Frederick. There were over one hundred in attendance as well as members of YPD and YFD. The actual distribution of the delivered wreaths featured a police escort from the town DPW shed on route 1, down Old Post Road, onto Long Sands Road and into the cemetery area. The caravan of semi-trailer/18 wheelers was spectacular. A 5 minute video that I filmed at the Old Gaol hill will be forwarded via email to CVA members to view.
- Lessons moving forward. A better social media presence will be built in the upcoming months that will direct all donations going directly to York’s WAA First Parish Cemetery branch and not the national WAA organization.



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F. Banner update, Michael Dow.

- Suggested that the Fallen Hero Banners remain up during all WAA ceremonies, including both the distribution of the wreaths to the cemetery and the semi-trailer caravan.

G. VFW Update Jimmy Carabello.

- The York VFW is now the fastest growing post in the state of Maine. January featured a prime rib/chicken shoot dinner that had over 100 people attending. Next up is a Valentine's Day Mexican/chicken shoot dinner scheduled for 2/19/22. The VFW made several contributions this past month to the VFW National Home and stipends to York Schools and homeless shelters. A recent YHS hockey event featured a "Military Appreciation Night" that honored the 13 casualties suffered during the recent Afghanistan evacuation. All the names of the casualties were read prior to the game. Also, family members of the players that are serving in the military were also read, last, a US Flag unfurling was performed at center ice.

H. American Legion Wade Fox.

- The Legion was successful in reaching their 15% increase in membership. The fish and burger nights continue to be successful events. There will be an election of new officers.

I. Old Business

- The next steps are in motion to inspect the DAR monument. A mason will inspect said monument to put together a plan on how to proceed.
- Mel Spelman, Brochures: Mel passed out mock ups of a proposed triple gatefold brochure that would bring attention to all of the Purple Heart signs/flags, the Fallen Hero Banners, all of York's monuments with a legend to where all are located. A map will be included with all locations numbered. The back side will include information on First parish Cemetery along with Purple Heart information and more. A bar code/QR code is



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being suggested to assist for those wanting to scan onto a device.

J. New Business.

- Lew will liaison with the York History Group on Facebook with the CVA scheduled calendar events. Short paragraphs of information that will be shared by the CVA prior to publishing on the social media platform.
- An email was sent to Amber Harrison regarding the flooding of monuments by Cape Neddick River. It has been learned that this falls under an “unfunded Maine mandate.” Responsibility lies with York Parks & Recreation.

K. All of the budgetary motions were reviewed.

L. Motion to adjourn by Barry @ 8:03pm, seconded by Jimmy.