

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

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called To Order at 11:11 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 veterans committee's website and 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 John Opatovsky, to approve minutes of the February 13, 2021 Regular Committee Meeting. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

7. Correspondence

Amendment to Veterans Committee Resolution

Veterans Committee submitted amendment to the veterans committee's resolution. To change committee members from ten (10) members to twenty (20) members and forwarded to the committee Liaison Councilman Rafael Marte to be presented at the next Mayor and Council meeting on March 16, 2021.

8. Verbal Communications

No Verbal Communications from the public or committee members at this time.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Veterans Memorial Park (UpGrade Project)

Committee Chairman John Smith, presented updated information pertaining to committee's a plan to upgrade. There no further updates at this time. Will follow up at later time frame. Committee Chair John Smith, trying to get an architect to assist the committee on a design and plans. No future updates until further notice by Committee Chairman.

B. Bergenfield Veterans Web Site

Committee Chairman John Smith, presented the final edition of Bergenfield Veterans Advisory Committee Website. The website was officially up and running as of March 4, 2021. This new resource of information is now available to the veterans of Bergenfield. This website will update each with new updated information from US Department of Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Veterans Affairs. John Opatovsky suggest the website link for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans (IAVA) to be added to the Veterans Committee website. Committee Secretary SGM Warren Williams, will do some research of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans group and recommend to the committee chairman if the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans (IAVA) website meets the committee's requirements to be placed in the website.

C. Memorial Day Parade Planning

Meeting with Borough Administrator schedule for March 16, 2021 between 10AM or 10:30AM. Waiting for final confirmation of the actual time of the meeting.

D. Placing Veterans Banners on Street Poles.

Committee Chairman John Smith, meeting with individual about the street banners, has postpone with veterans committee until May 2021 meet. This matter will be table at a later date.

E. Committee's Shirts/Caps/Jacket Logo Ideas

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. Committee Chairman John Smith, suggest to the committee members, to have some ideas and samples for committee logo for Shirts/Jacket/Caps by the

April 2021 meeting. If no samples or ideas are not presented by committee members. The Committee Chairman will make the final decision on this matter.

F. Civil Service Commission Information

Committee Member Fred Sahlberg and Committee Secretary Warren Williams attended Virtual Information Event for Veterans with the New Jersey Civil Service Commission. This event gives a better understanding how the civil service system works and how to lookup civil service jobs and how to apply for these positions by using the NJ Civil Service Commission website. This event give out the latest update information and process for civil service listing, exams and job announcements and eligibility requirements for current open positions

10. New Business

A. Table Ideas 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.

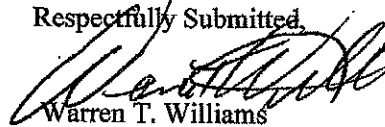
B. Fundraiser Campaign

Councilman Rafael Marte, presented the Veterans Committee that one of the business owners, will sponsor a fundraiser for the veterans committee. The local BP Gas Station, locate at New Bridge Road & Woodbine Ave will offer a campaign to have the gas station donate 1 cent per gallon of gasoline being purchase by customer. For example: 1,0000 gals at 0.1 cent donated gives the veterans \$100.00. The station has submitted a request to BP Oil Company for final approval of this fundraiser to help support the veterans committee. Committee Chairman John Smith, will make contact with gas station owner for update and status of the approval process with BP Oil Company. Committee Chairman will also update the committee when the campaign begins.

9. Adjournment

Motion Offered by John Opatovsky and **Second** by Thomas Lang, to adjourned the meeting and announce next month meeting on April 10, 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 12:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Warren T. Williams
Committee Secretary