

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DAV Northern Valley Chapter 32
January 09, 2021**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:05 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			Sick/Injury
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 AGENDA

No additions/deletions or amendments at this time

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Offered by Thomas Lang and **Second** by Amos White, to approve minutes of the December 11, 2020 meeting. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A. U.S. and New Jersey Flags to fly at Half-Staff in the Honor of U.S Capitol Police Officer and Air Forces veteran USCPO Brian D. Sicknick who die "due to injuries sustained while on-duty when a mob of President Trump's supporters stormed the U.S Capitol Building on January 6th, 2021. Officer Sicknick gave his life protecting the U.S. Capitol Building and by extension our very democracy, from violent. He is a Hero and the flags need to be flied at Half-Staff in his honor

Motion Offered by Warren Williams and Smith and **Second** by Thomas Lang, to contact the Governor and the Secretary of State Affairs and Borough of Bergenfield, to fly U.S. and NJ State flags at half-staff in honor of Officers Brian D. Sicknick. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

B. COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans.

Warren Williams informed and hand out information the members of the Veterans Committee pertaining to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) about the COVID-9 vaccine and when the VA will be offering the vaccine. Mr. Warren Williams passed an information sheet to each committee members and ask to get this information out to ours veterans and asked that each committee members to fill out the VA information form to place them on the VA COVID-19 list of veterans who are interested in the COVID vaccine. Mr Warren Williams, also informed the committee members to inform people within their neighborhood, that this COVID-19 vaccines are "Free of Cost" and to watch out scams going on to get people to paid for counterfeit vaccines being issued by scammers.

Motion Offered by John Smith and **Second** by Thomas Lang, 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.

C. Open Public Records At Request

Warren Williams, informed the committee member at this Veterans Committee, need to submit an "Open Public Records Request" from 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. The purpose for the OPRAR, so the 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 Warren Williams and **Second** by Thomas Lang, that the Committee Chairman John Smith to submit the OPRAR for all correspondence in regards to installing electric power line for lights on the U.S. Flag Pole. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

8. VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Warren Williams, informed the committee member about Flag issues pertaining to the NJ and KIA state flags. Both flags were ripped and/ faded. Warren Williams discuss this matter with Councilman Marc Pascual during week of January 4th thur January 8th 2021. After making a couple of telephone calls and submitted pictures of the conditions of these flags, needed to replace ASAP. As of 1:00 PM on January 8th, 2021, the NJ State flag was replace with a new flag and the KIA flag was removed, because it is not authorize by the NJ State Law, that the KIA flag is only to flown on municipal building not flagpoles. As of January 8th, 2021, is matter be resolved.

9. OLD 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 John Smith and **Second** by 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 creating the Bergenfield Veterans Web Site to the committee members. John Smith recommend that he will asked this daughter to assist the veterans committee by creating, setup and managing the veterans committee' web site. John Smith ask that the committee wait til after he discuss is over with his daughter. This matter is here by table until the next Veterans Committee meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. 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 is 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.

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

a). Request for Military Vehicles and Honor Guards, will be handled by Committee Secretary Warren Williams, will prepare the "Request for Armed Forces Participation in Public Events (DD Form 2536) and submit request the Headquarters of the New Jersey Army National, to have personal and equipment from the local National Guard Armory, located in Teaneck, NJ. Warren Williams, informed the committee members, that this request must be submitted within 90 days of the schedule event. Warren Williams, also informed the committee members, the request to get the local National Guard units participation for Bergenfield Memorial Day Parade will be submitted by February 15th, 2021 or sooner.

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

Committee Secretary Warren Williams recommend that the Veterans Committee, should have a Parade Grand Marshall. The committee discuss the ideal to have the oldest veteran and/or veterans to be Parade Grand Marshall. John Opatovsky, recommend to the committee members to have a female and male veterans as parade Grand marshal. Thomas Lang, also recommend to look for the youngest veteran to become a parade Grand Marshal. Warren Williams, agree with John Opatovsky and Thomas Lang, that the committee, should look at have a grand marshal for the following categories: Oldest Veteran, Female Veteran and the Youngest Veterans. John Smith recommend that committee come up with some candidates and asked that the commanders from VFW and DAV to review there members and submit nominee bio-sketch on each candidate, which the committee will select person or persons to be Grand Marshal(s) for the Memorial Day Parade. John Smith, recommend that final selection need to be completed by April 15th 2021. **Motion Offered** by John Smith and **Second** by Amos White to approve the selection process to pick Grand Marshals for the 2021 Memorial Day Parade. All present voting in favor and none opposed.

B. Veterans Banners on Washington Ave Street Poles.

Committee John Smith, recommend that the committee, need to met with Mayor and Council governing body, to discuss the concern of the banners of veterans are flowing off the banner support rods, because there "No Stop Anchors "on the top and bottom support rods of the banners. This matter is a real concern to this committee, because it show disrespect to veteran, unsafe condition to people walking by the street poles and a liability toward the Borough of Bergenfield. John Smith inform the committee, that he will meet with Mr. Cory Gallo, Borough administrator about getting this matter fix and will follow up to see if the veterans banner issue being worked.


C. 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 ideals and samples at the February and March meeting, to select what type of items with logo to represent this committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Offered by John Smith and **Second** by Amos White, to adjourned the meeting and announce next month meeting on February 13, 2021 held at the Bergenfield VFW Post 6467 at 11:00AM. There being no further business to come before the Veterans Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


Warren T. Williams
Committee Secretary