

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**May 20, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:07 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**

<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Yvonne Aponte, Member	X		
Edgar Garcia, Member			X
Thomas Lang, Member	X		
Marc Pascual, Council Liaison	X		
Richard Morf, Member	X		
Dina Moore, Member	X		
Willie Moree Jr, Member	X		
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplin	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 Yvonne Aponte

**5. Invocation (Chaplin)**

Invocation given by Committee Chaplin Dr. Samuel Paul

## **6. Agenda Changes (Additions/Deletion or Revisions)**

No Additions/Deletion or Revisions to Agenda

## **7. Approval of Minutes (April 2023)**

**Motion Offered** by Committee Member Thomas Lang and **Second** by Committee Member Richard Morf, to approve minutes for April 15, 2023, Regular Committee Meeting minutes to be and published on the website for the Veterans Advisory Committee. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

## **8. Treasury Report (May 2023)**

The current balance of funds available is 2,086.63. There were no donations and no other expenses or billing transactions during this reporting period of April 15, 2023 – May 20, 2023. **Motion Offered** by Committee Member Yvonne Aponte and **Second** by Committee Member Willie Moree, to approve the committee's treasury report for the period of April 15, 2023 through May 20, 2023. All present voting in favor and none oppose.

## **9. Presentation/ Correspondence**

### **A. Presentation:**

#### **1. No Presentation**

### **B. Correspondence:**

1. Committee Secretary Warren Williams informed the committee that a letter received from the NJ Army National Guard Headquarters dated May 11, 2023, informing the committee that the NJ National Guard will not be able to support the Bergenfield Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, due to mandatory training requirements.

## **10. Unfinished Business**

### **A. 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade (Update)**

Committee Chairman John Smith attended a Memorial Day Pre-Planning Meeting on May 16, 2023 with the Borough Administrator, Mr. Corey Gallo. This meeting was to form the parade lineup with will have two groups. The 1<sup>st</sup> Group will have all participating organization who will be walking with Parade Grand Marshall vehicle and veterans committee vehicle. The Second Group will have all the marching bands organizations with vehicles and floats and the Borough Fire Department trucks and First Aid Emergency vehicles. Committee Member Warren Williams, informed Councilman Pascual, that the Veterans Memorial Park Flagpole area will need DPW to place fresh muscle, flowers and trim the brushes and requested that the veterans war monuments in front of borough hall that the plaques be cleaned and polished for the Memorial Day morning Ceremony. Councilman Pascual forwarded a request to the Borough Administrator, Mr. Corey Gallo for DPW to work on these concerns.

### **B. Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall (Bergenfield: August 31-04 September 2023).**

Committee Member Warren Williams, reported to the committee, that he made a visit to the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall in Union, NJ and was given a tour and briefing on what needs to be done for the arrival and setting up the wall. Committee Member Warren Williams, take some pictures of the setup of the Memorial Wall and will forward these pictures to Councilman Pascual. Committee Member Warren Williams made a strong recommendation that to the Councilman Pascual, that there need to more meetings and better communications on any update's status on how the school district superintendent office and borough preparing the wall arrival and setup and where will the wall be located. Committee Member Warren Williams strongly recommend that the volunteers list and schedule and supply be setup and order now. Also request that the borough engineer do a ground level assessment to confirm the ground has no dips and bunches where the wall will be placed. There should be weekly or bi-weekly meetings that should be going on right now, because the timeline for the arrival of the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall is getting short. As of this date May 20, 2023, the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will be here in Bergenfield within the next 101 days.

**11. New Business**

No New Business

**12. Good of the Order**

A. Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall- Union Township (May 18 – 22, 2023)

B. Bergen County Stand Down Event-Hackensack (May 21, 2023- 10:30AM – 2:00PM)

C. Veterans Service Assistance (Update)

The Bergenfield VFW Post 6467 will have its Veterans Service Officer and Post Commander will be available on Monday and Wednesday Evenings between the hours of 6:00-8:00PM, to assistance any veterans who some guidance on the veteran's benefits eligibility or need assistance to enrollment into the VA Healthcare System, and how to file benefits claim and request for service records.

**13. Verbal Communications**

No Verbal Comments at this moment

**14. Legislative Bills Update**

A. NJ Legislative Bills

1 Senate Bill S-2285 and Assembly bill A-3604 would provide property tax relief to these disabled veterans and their families based on their disability rating. It will also provide for a rebate to those disabled veterans who are renters. This legislation will allow our veterans who bravely protected our Nation to stay in New Jersey. It will give our lower income, and single parent disabled veterans a chance to be homeowners in the Nation they fought and bled for. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans are calling on our state legislators to move these bills out of committee and on to the floor for a vote.

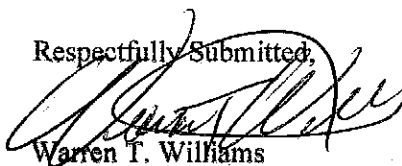
B. Congressional Bills

No Congressional Bills Updates at this moment

**15. Adjournment**

**Motion Offered** by Committee Member Yvonne Aponte and **Second** by Committee Member Willie Moree to adjourn the meeting. The next schedule committee meeting will be on Saturday, June 17th, 2023, time-10:00AM, at the VFW Post. There being no further business to come before the Veterans Committee. This meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



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