

Members Present: Lewis Chipola (Chair); Mayor Donchess; Clayton Proffer (VFW); Douglas Cotrau (DAV); Marc Plante (VFW); Steve Ordway (VFW); Don Vincent (American Legion); John York (American Legion)

Also Present: Emily Vassar-Rivas, Mayor's Office

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM/1500

L. Chipola asked if there was an update on the two flagpoles/flags that were brought up in the March meeting; Mayor Donchess advised that he saw a flagpole and flag at Lincoln Park. As for the flagpole and flag at the fields next to Amherst Street School, it was determined that it would be under the control of the School District. E. Vassar-Rivas advised that she sent an email to the Superintendent's Office inquiring, and we will update as soon as we hear back. If it is found that the grounds require a flagpole and flag, the City may offer to install the pole if funding can be secured.

Next on the agenda was a summarization of the progress of the Parade Committee's planning of the Memorial Day parade. John York provided the following updates:

- A political candidate requested to walk in the parade. The candidate was granted permission, provided that another candidate requests to walk and that no campaigning in any physical form is conducted along the parade route. The candidate is a veteran.
- Parade will step off from Holman Stadium; participants will stage at 9:45; vehicle entry to the staging area will be controlled; parking will be enforced per the Parade Committee's request.
- The Parade Committee wanted to ensure the Stadium is open for the restrooms to be used; Parks will need to be contacted for that, and E. Vassar-Rivas will coordinate that.

Next item on the agenda was an update on the Flag Day ceremony. That presentation will begin at 9:00 AM/0900 on Sunday, June 14, at the Elks Lodge. The members confirmed that the ceremony would not differ from previous years, with the ceremony held inside and the flag presentation held outside directly after.

Next item: 4th of July and the 250th Anniversary of Independence. The City is not organizing anything beyond the usual 4th of July programming. As for the raising of the Betsy Ross flag on the 4th, Mayor Donchess advised he wanted to do that again this year, and E. Vassar-Rivas advised she'd be coordinating with Risk and Buildings Maintenance to schedule that. The Veterans would like to hold a "1776"-themed flag as well, with a vocalist singing "It's a Grand Old Flag."

Post Updates

- American Legion: John York advised that the paint on the parking spaces at the American Legion is so light that folks are having issues parking correctly. E. Vassar-Rivas advised that she would find out which department handles street/parking lining and have it taken care of. Mayor Donchess confirmed he would be attending the American Legion Department of NH convention at the Sheraton on Friday, May 29, at 10:00 AM/1000.
- VFW: Poppy drive locations will be the same as previous years – Market Baskets and Liquor Stores; Memorial Day ceremonies at cemeteries will be held, and the locations are: St. Stanislaus, 61 Pine Hill Road; Lithuanian Cemetery, 90 Pine Hill Road; St. Francis, 61 Pine Hill Avenue; Edgewood Cemetery, 107 Amherst Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 PM/1522; the next meeting will be on July 12 at 3:00 PM/1500, in Room 208