

Veteran's Committee Meeting West Deptford Municipal Building

June 12, 2023

Attendance:

Lee Ann DeHart: Township Administrator, Present Latiya Holmes: Event Coordinator, Absent

Gerald O'Hare & Eric Mizner, Both Present: American Legion Post 100

Joe Diggs - Present, Bill Johnston - Absent: Army/Navy Garrison

Rhonda Gundersen, John Austin, Both Present: VFW Post 7125

Mike Franks, Deputy Chief of Police, W Deptford, Present

Meeting was called to order by Gerald O'Hare at 1700 hours followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve minutes by Eric Mizner, seconded by Joe Diggs.

OLD BUSINESS: John Austin recommend using the municipal flag from the mayor at the 8:30 am Memorial Day Ceremony next year to save time and trouble. Other comments included that during the line up at Colonial Manor, a group from the boat club showed up and were allowed to enter the rear of the line-up. This group should be added to next year's invitations. It was also suggested to include all three of the Veteran Groups at the front of the parade to avoid a backup and long wait at the National Park monument ceremony. It was also suggested to use traffic cones or issue requests for avoiding parking at the parade route in Colonial Manor. There was some confusion on what street should be used by the parade: Puritan, Lafayette, or Lincoln. Rhonda Gundersen stated that while at the VFW bar following the parade, one of the drivers of a vintage car expressed concern about participating again, as the slow stop and start of the parade made it difficult for him to keep his car from stalling.

Austin told Gundersen that he heard complaints about her handing out flags while standing in front of the Verga VFW parade and would recommend she not hand out flags in the future during the parade. Gundersen said it would be advisable to begin Children's Parade check-in at 9 am sharp with judging starting at 9:30. Also, one mother made a complaint because her daughter did not win or even receive a ribbon for her entry. Gundersen stated that the committee next year could possibly include a ribbon for all participants. Gundersen also said a member from both the American Legion and Garrison should be included at the Verga VFW for judging. Unlimited water, juice and snacks along with an American flag were distributed to all participants. Also, Eric Mizner stated that he would give the Children's Parade a line-up number so that it could cause less confusion next year for their joining into the parade. Further, the children should not wait by the VFW flag as a short ceremony takes place there.

Gerald O'Hare suggested having EMS at the park or close by along with a water station at the Park. Many compliments were extended to the W Deptford Police at the parade and should be included in next year's committee meetings. Mike Franks mentioned that the insurance company offers training on parades which might be helpful for all of the Committee members. Joe Diggs made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Eric Minzer.