

MINUTES
TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS – SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 7:00 PM

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER, 7:03 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Inga Bowes, Adam Raider (Secretary). Na'eelah Bakari (Co-Chair), Alexis Davidoff, Jeremy Donnelly (Co-Chair), Rolf Knoll. Absent: Matt Hart, John Keleher. Guest: John Mele

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 13, 2023

Mr. Donnelly made a motion to approve the minutes from June 13, 2023, seconded by Ms. Davidoff. Motion carried without discussion.

4. OUTREACH: MAILING TO VETERANS

The Commission agreed to do a mailing in 2023 to West Hartford veterans that would include a letter of introduction and various materials provided by the Department of Social Services. Mr. Donnelly offered to pen a draft of the letter. Mr. Raider offered to contact Town officials to obtain mail lists of known veterans in West Hartford. Mr. Knoll and Mr. Mele, as members of American Legion Post 96, would find out about generating a similar list from the Legion. Mr. Raider will also find out if anyone at Town Hall – employee, intern, etc. – would be able to merge and “de-dup” all lists for the mailing.

5. OTHER OUTREACH INITIATIVES

The Commission also discussed the possibility of organizing a Veterans Resource fair in Town Hall Auditorium in November 2023, and possibly using the letter referenced above to gauge interest. Ms. Bowes and Ms. Davidoff offered to contact Town officials about venue availability and report back to the Commission.

6. AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

Mr. Knoll shared that the Post 96 swept the American Legion U19 state championship, beating Danbury for the team's first title in 50 years!

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Raider made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM, seconded by Donnelly. Motion carried without discussion.