

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Borough Hall Chambers
Regular Meeting
February 15, 2025

MINUTES

1. Meeting Called to Order at 10:30 AM

2. Chairman's Statement

Committee Chairman Thomas Lang called the meeting to order by reading the Open Public Meeting Act and the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. Notices of this committee's meeting are here by posted on two municipal public notice bulletin boards, published on the websites for the Borough of Bergenfield and the Veterans Advisory Committee and on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Roll Call

Roll Call	Present	Absent	Excused
Venus Carpenter, Member	X		
Kean Castillo, Member			X
Joseph J. Cutolo, Member	X		
Gerald J. Ferra Jr., Vice Chairman	X		
Edgar Garcia, Member			X
Jose Henriquez		X	
Barry Hirschberg, Member	X		
Thomas Lang, Chairman	X		
Edward Lora, Secretary	X		
Peter M. Matthews, Member	X		
Willie Moree, Member		X	
Richard Morf, Member	X		
Dina Moore, Member	X		
Marc Pascual, Council Liaison	X		
Dr. Samuel Paul, Chaplain	X		
Fredrick Sahlberg, Member	X		
Wilfred Selby, Member	X		
John Smith, Member	X		
Jose Vasquez, Member	X		
Amos White, Member	X		
Warren Williams, Treasurer	X		

4. Flag Salute

Led by Committee Chairman Thomas Lang

5. Invocation (Chaplin)

Given by Committee Secretary Edward Lora.

6. Agenda Changes (Additions/Deletion)

No additions/deletions to meeting agenda

7. Approval of Minutes (January 2025)

Motion Offered by Warren Williams and **Second by** Jose Vasquez to approve minutes for December 14, 2024 Regular Committee Meeting minutes and to be published on the Veterans Committee website. All present voted in favor **YES**.

8. Treasury Report (February 2025)

a. The treasury report for February 2025, the current account balance, \$1,070.49 USD. The Committee paid \$535.14 to the Cresskill American Legion Post-21 of the Holiday Party Expenses for the December 20, 2024. The new balance of funds available is \$1,070.49. There are no other expenses and billing transactions for the reporting period of January 11, 2025 through February 15, 2025 treasury report.

Motion Offered by Jose Vasquez and **Second by** Dina Moore to approve treasurer's report for February 2025 Committee Treasury Report. All present voted in favor **Yes**.

9. Presentation

No Presentation at this time.

10. Correspondence

Notice of announcement was read by Committee member Warren Williams, that Miss Uma Nandini Nath of Bergenfield was selected as one of the awardees for the 2025 Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award.

11. Unfinished Business

- Committee New Polo Shirts: Still waiting on more information of shirts.

Committee Member Gerald Ferra will follow up with some updated information of an affordable price. A list on shirts sizes, shirt type and orders were taken for committee members present at this month's meeting (February).

- Reminder of Grand Marshall Nomination Application letter and form need to start sending information now and all nomination packet be turn-in to the committee no later than April 1st, 2025.
- Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade at Cooper's Pond and use the same parade route as last year South Prospect Ave to Veterans Memorial Field on New Bridge Road. The Borough is looking to have this parade route on Washington Ave, because the new borough building front lot area should be completed in time for this year's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade.
- Recommend that a memorial Day and Parade Pre-Planning be scheduled very soon with borough Manger and all the other Department. There are 93 days left before Memorial Day.
- VIP Invitations were sended out via email as of February 10th due to VIPs calendar schedule for this year's state elections.

12. New Business

a. Memoria Day 2025

- The letter and entry form for this year's Memorial Day Ceremony and parade information must be updated and be ready to forward the Borough PR POC AJ Stweart by March 1st 2025
- Recommendations to have this year's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade at Cooper's Pond and use the same parade route as last year South Prospect Ave to memorial Field on New Bridge Road

b. Grand Marshall Nomination Application letter and form need to start sending information now and all nomination packet be turn-in to the committee no later than April 1st, 2025.

c. VIP Invitations need to be sended out ASAP due to VIPs calendar schedule.

13. Public Comment *(Please be advised there will be a limit of three (5) minutes per each speaker)*

Decision with Councilman Marc Pascual. Regarding this year's Memorial Day Parade routes. The Borough building new front parking area and front courtyard may not be completed in time for this year's Memorial Ceremony and Parade. The committee members will continue to plan Cooper's Pond for the morning ceremony and starting point for the parade. Cooper's Pond can be the alternate route if the Borough building new front parking area and front courtyard is not completed on time.

14. Good of the Order

- Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award Ceremony, March 8, 2025 at 11:00AM, St. Stephens Roman Catholic Church, Kearny, NJ

- St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 16, 2025 at 2:00PM, Bergenfield, NJ
- VFW-NJ District-2 Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen & Teacher Awards Ceremony, March 26, 2025 at 6:00PM, VFW Post-809, Little Ferry, NJ
- New 2025 VA Benefits Handbooks and NJ State Veterans Benefits Handbooks are available.

15. Open Comments (Members Only)

- Committee Chairman Thomas Lang, recommended that the remaining committee meetings will be held at the Bergenfield VFW Post. **Motion Offered by** John Smith and **Second by** Dr. Samuel Paul to the monthly committee meetings at the Bergenfield VFW Post for the remaining calendar year of 2025. All present voted in favor **YES**.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Veterans Advisory Committee, **Motion Offered by** Joseph J. Cutolo **and Second by** Barry Hirschberg to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at **11:31AM**. The next committee meeting will be on **March 15, 2025 at Bergenfield VFW Post at 10:30AM**.

Respectfully Submitted

Edward Lora

Edward Lora

Committee Secretary