

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Bergenfield VFWPost-6467**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 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**

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

**4. Flag Salute**

Led by Committee Chairman Thomas Lang

## **5. Invocation (Chaplain)**

Given by Committee Chaplain Dr. Samuel Paul.

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

No additions/deletions to meeting agenda

## **7. Approval of Minutes (February 2025)**

**Motion Offered by** Warren Williams and **Second by** Jose Vasquez to approve minutes for February 15, 2025 Committee Meeting minutes and to be published on the Veterans Committee website. All present voted in favor **YES**.

## **8. Treasury Report (March 2025)**

Committee Member Warren Williams given the treasury report for March 2025. The current balance of funds is \$1,070.49 USD. There are no expenses or billing transactions paid during the reporting period February 15, 2025 - March 15, 2025. The balance of funds available is \$1,070.49. All veterans' groups (DAV, BVETAC & VFW) have paid their portion of \$535.14 to the Cresskill American Legion Post-21. **Motion Offered by** Joseph Cutolo and **Second by** Richard Morf, to approve treasurer's report for March 2025 Committee Treasury Report. All present voted in favor **Yes**.

## **9. Presentation**

No Presentations

## **10. Correspondence**

Committee Member Warren Williams received correspondence from Mrs. Nath, for the Essay Contest for students in grades 9-12. This essay contest is only for students who are residents of Bergenfield.

## **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 turned-in to the committee no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 Manager and all the other Department. There are 93 days left before Memorial Day.

- VIP Invitations were sent out via email as of February 10<sup>th</sup> 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 POC AJ Stweart by March 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 (3) 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 are not completed by May 2025.

## **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
- 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
- DAV Annual
- 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.

## **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 **11:30AM**. The next scheduled committee meeting will be on **April 19, 2025 at Bergenfield VFW Post at 10:00AM**.

Respectfully Submitted

***Edward Lora***

Edward Lora

Committee Secretary