

**Town of Garner
Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting**

Monday, December 12, 2022
0900 hrs, White Deer Park Nature Center

- Committee Members:
 - Matt Pedone - President, John Foster – Vice President, Helen Carter – Secretary, Don Searles
 - Ex-officio Members:
 - Bob Carter (VFW), Terry Chatfield (AL), Robert Gregory (DAV),
 - Town Staff: Kayla Phillips (Events Coordinator), Megan Young (Operations Superintendent), Katie Lockhart (Parks and Nature Superintendent), Colleen Bockhahn (Outdoor Education and Parks Manager)
 - Town Liaison: Phil Matthews
 - Tours: Spence Cardwell, Terry Chatfield and Katie Lockhart, Matt Pedone.
 - Maintenance of the Memorial: Terry Chatfield and Katie Lockhart
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- A) The meeting was opened by Matt Pedone at 9:00 ^{AM} with the following in attendance: Matt Pedone, Terry Chatfield, Don Searles, Jeff Hicks, Helen Carter, John Foster, Tim Stevens and Town of Garner staff Megan Young, Katie Lockhart, Colleen Bockhahn, and Kayla Phillips.
- B) Minutes from September meeting – Motion by Terry Chatfield, seconded by Jeff Hicks to approve the minutes. Motion approved. Later during the meeting, there was a discussion of who John Foster (Land Mgt) was. That was a mistake, and the minutes were corrected.
- C) Report from Standing Committees
- Observances:
- The Memorial Day 2022 – Several members of the Cmte were at the Church, and only Jeff was at the park until the service at the church (and the rain) ended. Then Terry also went to the park. Attendance at both events were down due to the weather.
 - Garner Veterans Day – In spite of the rain, the veterans’ groups gave out flags at the church, and Jeff was at the park (in the rain) for tours. After the church service ended, Terry joined Jeff at the park for tours. Attendance was down at both events this year due to the rain – about 100 people.
 - Wreath Laying at Gold Star Family Tree – Sat Dec 17 at 10:00 ^{AM} at the memorial. The wreaths are purchased and stands are ready. The Optimist Club donated a Christmas tree and each person whose name is on the memorial has a star. Additional stars are available. The boy scouts will be bringing in the wreaths. The artificial wreaths were each donated by a particular organization. The VFW Aux still needs to pay for their wreath (about \$41), other organizations have already paid. The Town’s color guard has been requested. It needs more advertising (town’s Facebook, Garner Chamber, Post website, etc.).
 - Christmas gifts to the Veterans at area nursing homes – Sat., Dec 17 - After the wreaths are laid at the Garner memorial, people can go to Lawndale Manor to split up into different groups to give out gifts to Veterans at the area nursing homes (Lawndale, Laurels of Forest Glen, Bellarose Nursing Home, Foundation Senior Living). This year, we can actually visit with the Vets.
 - Wreaths Across America – Sat, Dec 17 at Raleigh National Cemetery, from 10:00 ^{AM} till noon. Help needed there as well.
 - Salute to the Troops - We did not have a Salute to the Troops in 2022, usually done in

- May or June. But this year we did the documentary instead.
- Memorial Day 2023 – Terry will not be available for 2023, due to being in Arlington for other veterans' organizations. So, he decided that this would be a good year to retire from this job and let someone else take over. We need a speaker for this, and the Veterans groups probably have better connections for finding someone appropriate. We need a name by the next meeting. The VFW and Legion will be available to hand out flags and programs.
 - Independence Day 2023 – July 3 at Lake Benson Park. The Committee will provide tours of the memorial during the peak hours.
- D) Maintenance of Memorial – Charles and Katie
- Permanent mounting holes for flags are now available.
 - New bricks: taking orders again to be made for next year. Katie will find out the capacity.
 - Discussion of adding Space Force to the list of branches: it may just be a sign or a reference in the tour guide.
- F) Unfinished business:
- a) Katie confirmed what would be on the blank (generic) badges for the Memorial guides. She will have them available by the next meeting.
 - b) Jeff brought up the banners, so even though we were not doing it now, they will remain in the minutes so we don't forget. We will look at it again in 2024.
- G) Reports of Vets Organizations:
- a) VFW: Jeff gave the report. This week's meeting will have the Police/Fire Fighter of the year award presented.
 - b) AL: Terry gave the report. This month's meeting will be the Holiday dinner. Then on Saturday, after the Gold Star family event at the memorial, the Legion will be going to the area nursing homes to give presents to the approx. 15 Veterans there, and the remaining boxes will be delivered to the Durham VA. They have funds for veterans in need, and if someone comes to them because they could not pay an electric bill, we pay it for them to the electric company, and not to the veteran. We also bring them Veterans' magazines.
 - c) DAV: _____.
- H) New business:
- a) Matt brought up that there were a few members of the Committee that have never shown up to a meeting. One (Rosemary) was removed last month and refilled with Don Searles. Another (Michael Chasey) has never been here, and is now getting ready to move to Holden Beach. So, he needs to be replaced as well. The person needs to be approved by the Town first. If you know of someone that would be good, they need to apply with the Town Clerk's office.
- I) Closed at 10:00^{AM} and will meet again on Mar 13 at 9:00^{AM}.