

MINUTES – WAYLAND PUBLIC CEREMONIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Note: In compliance with the March 12, 2020 Massachusetts Office of the Governor’s Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, this meeting of the Public Ceremonies Committee was livestreamed on local broadcast on the WayCAM Government Channel and open to the public to view and participate via Zoom. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted. Public Comment was available by both telephone and Zoom during the time designated for Public Comment.

A meeting of the Public Ceremonies Committee was held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Present:

Richard Turner (Chair)
George Bernard
Rod McLean
Donna Bouchard

All members participated remotely by tele-video conferencing via Zoom and WayCAM.

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Richard Turner (Chair) at 6:03pm. The Chair announced each Committee member who was participating remotely by full name. The Chair also noted that in compliance with revised Open Meeting Law requirements, the meeting would be broadcast live and recorded for later broadcast by WayCAM. The Chair announced a phone number for the public to call to offer comments and reviewed for the public how to participate via a virtual ‘hand-raise’ in Zoom.

Member George Bernard was unable to participate through Zoom and called in intermittently throughout the meeting while attempting to resolve issues with remote participation.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Reading of Correspondence and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The draft minutes from the Committee’s March 5, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted by Richard Turner, George Bernard and Rod McLean. Donna Bouchard abstained due to her inability to attend the March 5, 2020 meeting.

4. Reading of Correspondence/ Old Business

Continue Discussion of the Good Government Award in Memory of C. Peter R. Gossels, Former Town Moderator (Update)

The Committee received an update from the Chair that the portrait and plaque commemorating long-time resident and 30-year Wayland Town Moderator, Peter Gossels, had been installed on the wall outside the Treasurer’s Office in the Wayland Town Building.

The C. Peter R. Gossels Good Government Award is bestowed upon a long-time resident of Wayland who has served as a volunteer for 20 years or more with generosity of spirit to improve and support operation of good town government. The award honors unpaid, secular service that promotes positive citizen engagement with town government; provides factual information to voters and officials to enhance fairness and well-informed decisions; and may include innovative initiatives that enhance operation of the Town of Wayland. The award recognizes an individual who exemplifies Peter's passion for justice, civility and high standards of conduct.

Members then discussed the unveiling ceremony, which was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee agreed to hold this matter open until a small gathering – at the convenience of the Gossels family members (date and time) – can be safely held inside the Wayland Town Building.

5. New Business

Annual Town Report, Draft Review

The Committee reviewed a draft of the Annual Town Report and made revisions to the draft, including adding the names of the attendees at the Purple Heart Ceremony and outside Veterans Day Ceremony. The draft report was then unanimously approved for submission.

2020 Veterans Day Program

The Committee discussed the real possibility that there would be new limitations on gatherings imposed by the Governor by November due to the pandemic. The annual outdoor ceremony was considered and a possible speaker, Mike Patterson, was noted. The matter was left that details would need to be firmed up closer to the date of the event (Wednesday, November 11, 2020).

2021 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony - Logistics and Planning

The 2021 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony discussion was postponed until closer to the date.

6. Committee Members Concerns and Updates

The Committee discussed the appointment of a fifth member. No one has been named since the vacancy in November of 2019.

7. Topics Not Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours Prior to the Meeting

No topics were discussed.

8. Set Next Meeting Date

The Committee deferred to the Chair to set the date of the next meeting due to scheduling limitation through Zoom.

9. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made by Donna Bouchard, seconded by Rod McLean, the Committee voted unanimously (3-0) to adjourn at 6:38pm.

Corresponding Documentation:

- Draft meeting minutes dated March 5, 2020.
- Draft Annual Report