

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk of Concord, a meeting of the Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee was held at the Harvey Wheeler Building, 1276 Main Street, on May 13, 2019.

ATTENDANCE: John Arena (Chair), Trish Ng, Julissica Navarro-Norton, and Tom Valle.

GUESTS: David Bell, Alice Galinat, Meg Gaudet, Buzz Nichols.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm, a quorum being present.

1. The Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the prior meetings held on April 22.
2. The Chair recognized Buzz Nichols, who asked if “The Soldier Poem” would be part of the 2019 Memorial Day Program, and whether anyone present was against its inclusion. The Chair recognized Meg Gaudet who asked if the members of the Committee had read the poem and all confirmed they have. John Arena and Trish Ng noted resistance to that particular poem in the past from clergy and others asked to participate in the day’s events, and that town officials have expressed discomfort with it.

Buzz noted that the poem had been included for many years prior to its exclusion last year. The Chair recognized Nancy Galinat, who suggested perhaps the poem be included in a Veterans Day event rather than Memorial Day. After some discussion on the matter, John stated that the agenda for the program would be discussed and finalized at the Monday May 20 meeting of the Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee. That timing would give the Committee membership time to think of the matter.

3. The Chair recognized Meg Gaudet, and discussed with her the public reception in West Concord after the ceremony on Memorial Day, which will take place under the pavilion on Rideout Field. The Committee appreciates Meg’s work and leadership in organizing the reception.
4. The Chair recognized Alice Galinat from the Daughters of the American Revolution; the DAR will participate and carry their banner in each of the Memorial Day events and wishes to lay a wreath at the World War II Memorial in recognition of the 75th anniversary of D-Day. There was discussion among the Committee members and Alice about inviting Peter Orlando of 617 Bedford Street to participate in the events, as Mr. Orlando is a WWII Veteran who participated in D-Day. Tom will follow up with Mr. Orlando.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Invoices – there were no one presented.
6. Current Planning:
 - a. Memorial Day – the Committee reviewed the checklist of assignments for the day’s events.
7. Public Comment – no additional.
8. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:00pm at Harvey Wheeler.
9. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Valle, Member