

Board Meeting: Friends of the First Company Governor's Horse Guards

Date: 09-30-2015

Location: 1 GHG Avon, CT 19:08 hrs

Present:

Board Members: CPT William Cowell (Chair), Andrew Arsenault, Mary Ellen Diot, CPT Ken Nelson, Deborah Key Mundair (Acting Secretary)

Absent: Anna Bongiorno,

Guests: MAJ Chris Miller, Mike Downes

The Friends of the First Company Governor's Horse Guards held a Board Meeting on September 30, 2015 to review its financial standing and conduct any other business that may come before the Board.

Minutes:

Minutes of the last meeting held on September 16, 2015 2015 were reviewed and approved with one minor correction (typo - PFC). Minutes were accepted by Bill Cowell and approved by Mary Ellen Diot.

Financial Report, including:

CPT Ken Nelson reported there was no change in the accounts since the last meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. Board Members + Meetings:

Former MAJ + Commandant Mike Downes was proposed by MAJ Miller and was interviewed by those present. He was officially welcomed to the Board to help preserve the unique heritage of the 1CoGHG by utilizing his knowledge of the Troop and his professional communications skills.

The new Committee for 2016 was nominated by Bill Cowell, seconded by Ken Nelson and voted unanimously: The Election of Officers is as follows:

President: Mike Downes

Vice President: Bill Cowell

Secretary: Mary Ellen Diot

Treasurer: Ken Nelson

The Board will meet 4 times per year and the next meeting will be Wednesday January 13, 2016. Deb Key offered apologies as she will be interstate.

The board supported the need to have clear communications between the active Troopers and the Friends so agreed that PFC Krause should be invited to act as Special Liaison on a regular basis, including attending the next general Friends meeting on Wed Oct 14, 2015.

2. Other Business:

Role of the 501(c):

The intent of the Friends is to support the Troop by assisting with their fundraisers, seeking financial supporters, helping raise the profile through PR including social media, co-ordinating a "Go Fund Me" campaign and being a conduit for the timely payment of monies for Troop activities. Good communication is essential for both groups to be fully informed and continue to move forward in a united, positive way for the long-term preservation of the 1CoGHG.

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Status of Land Ownership:

Bill Cowell raised the ongoing need to finally resolve the question of land ownership so it is permanently assigned to the 1CoGHG. The Deed needs to be located it can be enforced by State Legislature. Lt Walsh referred to this Deed in a 1964 granting the land in perpetuity and 2 other Commandants alluded to it in subsequent documents. Lt John Stone was one of the parties who purchased the land, oversaw the mortgage payments for 10 years and gifted the land to the State.

Mike Downes advised it was a good time to prepare documents now to be able to present a case to the Appropriations Committee in February 2016 when Bills are being introduced. It only has to be 2-3 lines referring to the need to confirm the land is owned by the 1CoGHG in perpetuity.

Closer links to the Town of Avon:

MAJ Chris Miller advised David Pena visited the Drill Hall last week and Deb Key confirmed he also offered support again at Avon day on Sept 26. Mr Pena extended an invitation for the GHG to be present at Town Council meetings periodically to provide regular updates.

Deb Key reported that the 1CoGHG tent at Avon Day had a fine display of artifacts and images. Troopers on duty actively engaged with the crowd. PFC Krause, Lt Schoeneberger and Deb Key have ideas how to improve the presence for 2016 and will meet soon.

Social events:

The next Fundraiser will be a comedy night at the City Steam Brewery in Hartford on Nov 12, 2015 as per the minutes from the Sept 16, 2015 meeting. An update will be provided at the next Friends meeting on Wed Oct 14, 2015 (1 month before the event).

Andy Arsenault reported the Holiday Party will be held on Dec 17, 2015 at La Trattoria in Canton with cocktails starting at 6.30pm (cash bar). The cost will be \$35.75 per person for appetizers, buffet and Yule Log for dessert. He is creating the invitations.

Ken Nelson voted to subsidize the 23 active Troopers' meals by \$10pp as in previous years as a goodwill gesture between the Friends and the Troop. The motion was seconded by Mary Ellen Diot, opposed by Andy Arsenault but carried by the majority.

Meeting adjourned @ 20:13 hrs.

Submitted, Deborah Key Mundair (acting Secretary for the evening of Sept 30, 2015)

Next meeting: Wed Oct 14 at 19:70 hrs for all Friends, including guests