

Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Call to Order

Chairman Jay Pinette called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the First Floor Conference Room, Wakefield Town Hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present were Chairman Jay Pinette, Secretary Pam Hart, Tom Collins, Don Hart and VSO Hector Errina.

The Board recognized guest Dan Benjamin. Benjamin recently attended a Town Council meeting and is bothered by the fact that the Pledge of Allegiance is not recited at those meetings. He asked that the VAB support his concerns on this matter and approach Town Council to adopt such practice in the future.

Chairman Pinette motioned to look into this matter, seconded by VSO Errina. Motion passed.

Member Collins motioned to approve September minutes, seconded by Chairman Pinette, motion approved.

VSO Report

The Galvin Auditorium has been reserved from 8:30 am-1:30 pm for the town's Veterans Day service.

Errina recently learned that Wakefield resident Alice Fitzgerald's uncle Andrew McLaughlin was killed in action on October 30, 1918 fighting in World War 1. Arrangements will be made to present her family with McLaughlin's Purple Heart which he never received. The presentation will take place during the Veterans Day ceremony.

The Veterans Food Market has been moved to the Wakefield Senior Center. This will alleviate spoilage of extra perishables as they can be put in the Center's refrigerator. There also is easier access to parking. Board members will now deliver when necessary.

The Rotary Club will underwrite the cost of a veterans coffee hour to be held on Oct.27 at the Senior Center from 8:30 to 11 am. Future gatherings will be held the last Saturday of the month. Discussed were ways to publicize the Food Market, Coffee Hour, assemblies, etc.

Veterans Day Ceremony

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the World War I Armistice and towns across the country will ring bells at 11 am as a solemn reminder. Wake field's ceremony will begin with the tolling of 21 rings on an original firefighters' bell. Chairman Pinette will contact Fire Chief Michael Sullivan to see if we can get someone to volunteer to do this.

The 2017 ceremony was reviewed to check on any necessary changes in programming. New pavers which have been installed during the past year will also be recognized. Added this year will be the presentation of the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal to be presented to local Korean War veterans who served in-country or on Korean waters. John Kennedy of Honey Dew will, once again, be contacted for the collation.

If necessary, the Board will meet again prior to November 11.

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Pinette, seconded by Hector Errina. Motion passed, meeting closed at 7:24 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Hart

Minutes approved by; Jay Pinette