

Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Members present were Chairman Pinette, Secretary Pam Hart, VSO Hector Erinna, Members Tom Collins, Don Hart, Bill Walsh, Melinda Cook, Richard Pearson.

Motion to approve May 2018 minutes: Member Don Hart motioned to approve, seconded by Tom Collins, motion passed.

VSO Report

The Veterans Food Market attracts roughly 10 recipients each month, despite reminder phone calls on the day prior. Discussed was avenues to take to publicize the program so that more veterans and their families could benefit. One suggestion was to put a notice in the Wakefield Daily Item each month.

The budget is doing well and is able to help those Wakefield veterans and families in need.

He is still working on plans to organize a get-together where veterans and their families could socialize either weekly or monthly in a relaxed atmosphere to support one another.

New Business

Over the summer months the Board was approached for its thought on use of the Veterans Memorial Common for various sports programs. Member agreed, unanimously, that such use of this area should not be allowed. The feeling being that it is a Memorial Common where those who served our country should be honored with passively. The Board will be putting together a statement on its position on non-use of Veterans Memorial Common.

Old Business

The Board is still working on constructing its Bylaws and Mission Statement and updating additions to the Town website.

Veterans Day Ceremony

November 11 falls on a Sunday this year. The Galvin Middle School Auditorium needs to be confirmed, as well as Girl Scouts, clergy, WHS musicians, Representatives Wong and Brodeur. There have been new pavers placed on the Veterans Common and those names will be announced. Discussed was adding a note into the program mentioning the Veterans Food Market. Secretary Hart thought it would be a nice idea to have the school children in town display artwork honoring veterans and military.

Tom Collins and Pam Hart mentioned a recent article published in the September American Legion Magazine on the “Bells of Peace Remembrance” taking place across the country. On Nov. 11 at 11 am bells will toll nationwide marking the centennial of the World War I armistice. They both thought that it would be nice if Wakefield churches took part.

Discussion on Veterans Day program will be taken up at the board's October meeting.

Other Business

Richard Pearson discussed meeting with Rolling Thunder member Mike Saragosa regarding bringing the small Vietnam Wall of Remembrance to Wakefield in a year or two. A date and location will be discussed at a future VAB meeting.

Next meeting Oct. 16.

Adjournment

Pam Hart motioned to adjourn, seconded by Melinda Cook. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Hart

Minutes approved by: Jay Pinette