

## **Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 15, 2019**

#### **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 to the Flag.

#### **Roll Call**

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

Recognized guest: Dan Benjamin

#### **Old Business**

Eagle Scout project to rebuild Paddy Heights will be brought before Town Council for approval.

Information regarding the VAB needs to be updated on the town website. Does the Board need approval on this matter? Discussed was drafting of the Board's Mission Statement; how should the introductory paragraph read? Members Walsh and Cook were thanked for their help in editing the rough draft copy.

#### **New Business**

It was brought to the Board's attention that there is a tablet at the entrance to Temple Emmanuel on Chestnut Street dedicated to The Four Chaplains, heroes during World War II. This plaque has been in place since May 30, 1955. These brave men gave up their own life jackets and put the safety of others before them as the ship they were on was sinking in the cold waters off Greenland when torpedoed by a German submarine. A commemoration is held yearly on Four Chaplains Day, Feb. 3. Liz Freeman is the contact person at the Temple who will advise on this year's date, either Feb. 1 or 3. Board Chairman Pinette will draft a press release to publicize this event.

#### **Memorial Day**

A local Coast Guard Veteran who is involved with Operation Home Base has volunteered to speak at the town's Memorial Day Ceremony.

John Kennedy has sold Honey Dew Donuts, new owner Derek Robinson has agreed to provide refreshments for the collation.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### **The Moving Wall**

Discussion was held on having the Moving Wall displayed in Wakefield. It is just not feasible for the Board to look further into this endeavor due to the high cost of logistics, police, fire, safety, etc. Costs would be at least \$50,000.

American Legion Posts are required to document military memorials and monuments. Melinda's son and other friends have volunteered to help with this project. She noted that there is up to \$15,000 in grants available to preserve veterans' history.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Pam Hart, seconded by Tom Collins; motion passed.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Hart

Minutes approved by: Jay Pinette