

Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 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 Jay Pinette, Secretary Pam Hart, Tom Collins, Don Hart, Richard Pearson, Bill Walsh. Absent: Melinda Cook.

Motion to approve February 2019 minutes: Bill Walsh, seconded by Jay Pinette, voted and so approved.

Chairman Pinette mentioned that some Board members have terms which will be expiring. Those interested in being reappointed to the Board must email their Letter of Interest and Resume to Sherri Dalton before April 1.

Paddy Heights Project

All necessary requirements have been done. Local business New England Granite has offered to donate granite for the benches. Work should be finished by the end of April or early May.

Veterans Relief Fund

Chairman Pinette remarked that Saugus has a very active Veterans Relief Fund. The Board needs to find a way to be more structured in how it helps Wakefield's veterans.

Mission Statement

The Board continued discussion on this matter.

VSO Report

Due to Hector Erinna's absence, no report was given. The Board discussed the fact that it should have knowledge of what funds are dispensed, how many veterans are being helped each month and what type of aid they are receiving so that it may have a better understanding of how it can assist those in need.

Memorial Day

Chairman Pinette will confirm the guest speaker, clergy and WHS musicians. Tom Collins will take care of the wreath and flowers with the help of local Girl Scouts.

New Business

Also discussed was the fact that printed on the Town of Saugus tax bills are check off boxes where residents can donate to funds that go towards upkeep of the town's veterans memorials. Wakefield residents can only donate to its Veterans Relief Fund or Veterans Memorial Fund when paying excise tax. However, most people don't know about it. It would be helpful if donations could also be sent in along with property tax payments. This needs to be publicized.

Richard Pearson has discussed with the Chairman of Wakefield Soccer Association that there was no parking at the Galvin Middle School for those who wanted to attend the Veterans Day 2018 ceremony due to ongoing youth basketball games. He wanted to make sure that soccer games do not conflict with future Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances.

The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall schedule is posted on the VAB website. It is hoped that this will generate a lot of interest in attendance in August when it is displayed in North Reading.

Motion to adjourn by Pam Hart, seconded by Jay Pinette; motion passed, meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Hart

Minutes approved by: Jay Pinette