

Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 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, Tom Collins, Melinda Cook, Don Hart, Richard Pearson, Dan Benjamin and Robert Ettinger. Absent: Melinda Cook.

Guest

Recognized guest was VAB member Tom Collins, as he had not been sworn in to date.

Motion to approve April 2019 Minutes by Richard Pearson, seconded by Dan Benjamin, voted and so approved.

VSO Report

Due to the absence of the Veterans Service Officer, no report was given. However, there are four candidates being interviewed for the open position and a decision will be made in June.

Memorial Day

The Board focused this month's meeting on the Memorial Day ceremony which will take place at the Galvin Middle School Auditorium on Monday, May 27. Previously discussed plans were finalized. All contacts have been made and arrangements are in place.

New Business

Two new pavers have been installed along the Veterans Walk of Remembrance in the name of both Gregory G. Rowe and Thomas P. Gibson. They will be recognized at the Memorial Day ceremony.

The Board discussed recognizing former long-time member Bill Walsh for his assistance throughout these past years. Chairman Pinette will contact the Town Council for ideas on how to go about honoring him at the Memorial Day ceremony.

Also recognized at this time was Phyllis Hull for her commitment to the town and its veterans. Without her foresight, the World War II Memorial would not have been re-built and the Walk of Remembrance would not have been constructed.

Veterans are invited to attend the annual Memorial Day Assembly held at the WMHS Field House at 9 a.m. the Friday prior to Memorial Day.

Discussed were ways to display the fact the Wakefield is a Purple Heart Community. Perhaps flags could be displayed on Main Street's lampposts, or decals placed around town. Also mentioned was the absence of the American Flag being flown at our local parks.

Motion to Adjourn by Richard Pearson, seconded by Pam Hart; motion passed, meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Hart

Minutes approved by: Jay Pinette