

**Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

Call to Order

Chairman Jay Pinette call 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 and Bill Walsh and VSO Hector Errina.

Recognized guest was Dan Benjamin who mentioned that he had submitted an application to be considered for appointment to the VAB.

Bill Walsh made a motion to approve the January 15, 2019 minutes, seconded by Tom Collins, minutes so approved.

VSO Report

Valentines have been distributed among town veterans. A coffee hour is being planned. VSO Errina wants anyone who may know of a needy veteran to please refer that person to his office. He recently learned of 18 veterans who have been isolating themselves from socialization.

Old Business

Pam Hart gave a review of the recent presentation in town of the Four Chaplains Recognition event. It was very well received by those in attendance. The board discussed perhaps taking part in this recognition each year. Bill Walsh commented on how well she did reading the article to the audience.

Paddy Heights

Chairman Pinette told members that the Town Council was on board with the plans to redo Paddy Heights until the discussion was brought up on the proposed benches. The Council's view is that all benches placed around town should be uniform, regardless of where they are in proximity to each other. Board members felt that the location of Paddy Heights is far enough away from either Town Common or other downtown sites and, therefore, the design of the benches shouldn't really matter.

Mission Statement

The Board's Mission Statement was printed among a recent press release in the Wakefield Item.

Town Memorials

Bill Walsh commented on the fact that there are several memorials around town that are not well known – WHS, Veterans Field, Moulton Playground. He is working to document all memorials in Wakefield.

New Business

Chairman Pinette has spoken with the current/interim pastor of the First Congregational Church regarding the new pastor, who will be joining the congregation in mid-April, to gauge interest in participating in the Memorial Day ceremony. As discussed previously, he is hoping to have a Coast Guard veteran from Operation Home Base as guest speaker.

Website

Discussed was the Board's ability to edit photos on its website and just what information should be included.

Donations

Not many townspeople are aware that they can donate to the Veterans' Relief Fund and the Veterans Ceremony Fund when paying their water bills. This needs to be publicized more.

Wreaths Across America

Chairman Pinette and Tom Collins would like to see more donations come in so that additional wreaths could be placed on veterans graves this December.

Adjournment

Bill Walsh motioned to adjourn, seconded by Don Hart. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Hart

Minutes approved by: Jay Pinette