

## **Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Jay Pinette called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, via Zoom conference, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### **Roll Call**

Members present were Chairman Pinette, Secretary Pam Hart, Melinda Cook, Bob Ettinger, Kristi Yentile, Mike Owen. Absent: Richard Pearson, Dan Benjamin.

Also present was Wakefield VSO Dave Mangan.

Chairman Pinette introduced new members Kristi Yentile and Michael Owen, both of whom have been appointed for three-year terms. Each board member then introduced themselves with a brief bio.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the April 2020 meeting were voted on and approved.

#### **VSO Report**

VSO Mangan reported that he is following up on two Chapter 115 requests.

There have been two requests for grave markers.

The veteran's food distribution now takes place at Melrose Memorial Hall at 9 am on the third Wednesday of the month. Currently about 20 Wakefield veterans take advantage of this program, as compared to 130 veterans on the list in neighboring Saugus. This program is not needs-based and has to be publicized more.

#### **Memorial Day**

The Memorial Day ceremony which is held at the Galvin Middle School Auditorium will not take place this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Board members will meet to place memorial wreaths around the Veterans Memorial Common on the Saturday prior to the holiday.

In spite of social distancing, local volunteers showed up Monday, and helped adorn veterans' graves with flags. Friday is the next scheduled gathering.

### **New Business**

Discussion was held on the Wreaths Across America project. Last year they requested 400 wreaths yet received just 374. The Board needs to have a coordinator for this undertaking.

September will be election of officers, with discussion on length of term.

**Motion to Adjourn** by Pam Hart, seconded by Melinda Cook; motion passed, meeting closed at 7:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Pam Hart

Minutes approved by: Jay Pinette