



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2021

Meeting Attendees – Paul Cancelliere, Rob Ettinger, Jay Pinette, Kristi Yentile, Marion Denehy, Sean McGrath, VSO Dave Mangan, Jackie Millinor, Melinda Cook, Michael Owen, Joe Dellolio

Absent: Dan Benjamin, Brian McCoubrey

Item 1: Call to order: Chairman Pinette called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance: conducted by all attendees

Item 3: Review/Approval of May 2021 VAB Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jay, and second by Marion to approve the April meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous.

Item 4: VSO Report: from VSO Dave Mangan – Wakefield Food bank is tomorrow, Wednesday June 16th. Wakefield food pantry has once again donated dry goods to go along with the Boston Food Bank donations. We currently have 19 Veteran families receiving services from the program.

The Chapter 115 Benefits Program is run by the Massachusetts Department Veterans' Services (DVS) in partnership with local Veterans' Service Officers (VSOs). The Program provides financial aid for food, shelter/housing, clothing, and medical care to veterans and their dependents who have limited incomes. The web site for further information is <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/disability/state-veterans-115>. We have 14-member families utilizing these services. If you know of any Veteran or Veteran spouse who may require our services, please let them know of this program.

Another program, Aid & Attendance, is for Wartime veterans and their surviving spouses, 65 years and older who may be entitled to a tax-free benefit provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The Benefit is designed to provide financial aid to help offset the cost of long-term care for those who need assistance with the daily activities of living such as bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, and transferring. Please contact my office for additional information.

A medal of Liberty was awarded to the Scott Family recognizing Gerald Scott and his sacrifice during the Korean War. Two more Korean Ambassador for Peace medals have been applied for by the family of Darlene and Raymond Best whose Father Sgt. Anthony Botticelli and Uncle PFC Raymond Iapicca both served in country during the Korean War.

Remember many Veterans are still fighting battles from many fronts. From memories of combat to situations here at home. There is HELP available for them within the Department of Veteran Affairs please contact the Veteran Service office here in Wakefield 781-246-6377.

And the HOT line for quick response under conditions beyond your control there is the: Suicide prevention hot line 1 800-273-8255.

Motion by Jay, and second by Melinda to accept the VSO's report. Vote was unanimous.



Item 5: Veteran's Corner Article: Jackie to draft June article on Women Veterans Day (June 12th).

Item 6: Veterans Discount Program Update: VSO Mangan provided an update, along with Kristi. If you are in doubt if a business offers a Veteran Discount, ask, and if they don't, tell them about the program. Plan is to canvas businesses again in the fall. A former Wakefield resident and veteran is trying to expand the program to his new hometown in Florida. We need to publish an article on Veteran's Corner soon about the program, perhaps with a list of participating businesses.

Item 7: Memorial Day 2021 Recap: Everything went well. Good turnout. Very well received by the Town, especially the reading of the names.

Item 8: Proposed Project to Erect Veterans' Field Memorial and Flagpole: Mr Maio very supportive. Need to involve DPW and Town Council. Need to send along conceptual drawings. Will from subcommittee. Subcommittee likely chaired by Dan (to be confirmed) and will include Joe, Marion and Kristi. Perhaps we can unveil in conjunction with Veterans' Day.

Item 9: Main Street Banners: Mr Maio said we don't need Town Council involvement to continue/expand program. The VAB should push on a recruit more veterans. We need to identify other (non-fallen hero) veterans. We must consider the rules for inclusion (wakefield rez at time of service?, all comers?). Should we charge, like the pavers? And then you get the banner to keep when it comes down? New banners likely month of November.

Item 10: Veterans' Parking Space at Town Hall: Installed and advertised in Item (twice).

Item 11: Other Business: The Board should send a thank you note to Beth Goodchild/Kendall Flowers for the wreaths. We should include Sweet Bay in the RFP for wreaths for the WWII memorial on Veteran's Day.

A future article for Veteran's Corner should describe the real estate abatement program available to certain veterans and gold star families.

Discussed Roll to DC (Sept 2022) for Vietnam-era Vets. Need to start recruiting folks to go early in 2022. 45 spaces (15 each from Wakefield, Saugus and Melrose). Cost is \$1,000 per person. We should do some fundraising.

Discussed 50th Anniversary Vietnam Vets Harbor Cruise on August 20th.

Moving Vietnam War Memorial Wall is in area (Essex and Middlesex Counties) this year and next.

Reading of the names of the Fallen Heroes should be something we as a Board offer to do for any group at anytime.

Item 12: Adjournment: The Chair moved, and Dave seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM

Submitted by: Rob Ettinger, Wakefield VAB Clerk