

**VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES: MEETING HELD 17 AUGUST 2021
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Members Present:

- Jay Pinette, Mike Owen, Dan Benjamin, Jackie Millinor, Joe Dellolio, Marion Dennehy, and Brian McCoubrey

Members Absent:

- Kristi Yentile, Melinda Cook, Paul Cancelliere, Rob Ettinger, and Sean McGrath

Others in Attendance:

- Dave Mangan – Veterans Services Officer and Mehreen Butt – Town Council liaison to VAB

Item 1: Call to Order: Chairman Pinette called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance: Conducted by all attendees

Item 3: Veterans Coffee Socials Program Plan: Chairman Pinette led a discussion in which all members present participated. The proposed date of Saturday, September 11 at the Quannapowitt Yacht Club (QYC) was discussed at length. As proposed, Honey Dew Donuts would provide coffee and donuts with a speaker to be determined. This is to be a group activity with specific roles defined.

When asked, Jay addressed why this program has not been offered recently. His response was that too few people, besides VAB members, were attending.

The group discussed the frequency of the event and concluded that, initially, the social would be held quarterly rather than monthly to gauge interest. Also discussed was the “marketing” of the event, what topics would be presented, and running an advance notice in the Wakefield Item in the “Veterans Corner” press release.

Jay noted that he could not find a vote regarding the program and made a motion that the VAB should move forward to reinstate and revitalize the Veterans Coffee Social. His motion was seconded by Marion. It was unanimously:

VOTED: To reinstate the Veterans Coffee Social.

Upon motion made by Jay and seconded by Jackie it was then unanimously:

VOTED: To postpone the first coffee social until October to be offered at a mutually agreeable day and time by the VAB and the QYC.

The board discussed having a presentation on Chapter 115 at the October meeting.

It was agreed that October would give the board an opportunity to market the program better. Councilor Butt graciously offered to announce the program at an upcoming meeting of the Town Council (either 13 September or 27 September) during the “announcements” portion of the meeting. The board thanked her for her support.

Item 4: Veterans’ Banners and Veterans Field Signage: Jay spoke at length about the banner proposal reminding the board of the “heroes” banners placed during the Memorial Day celebration. These new banners would recognize current veterans and noted that the “heroes” banners recognized those that “did not come home.” The new banners would include all veterans.

Jay commented that the board should “recruit” names and photographs during September and October so that banners could be installed for Veterans Day. A discussion was held regarding a vendor timeline and possible costs, etc.

The board discussed the criteria for being eligible (i.e., Form DD 214). The criteria, timeline, and costs will be discussed in greater detail at the VAB meeting in September.

The project at Vets Field discussion was led by Jay and Dan. Dan has secured conceptual designs and he believes he has secured a donation to cover the costs of signage. Councilor Butt suggested that the board talk the plan over with Town Administrator Steve Maio and Executive Assistant Sherri Dalton to see what additional information the town may require. This subject will be discussed in greater detail at the September meeting. A subcommittee of the board may be asked to help out as this moves forward.

Dan noted the passing of Dick Bayrd. Dick was a friend to many, a veteran, an active participant in town government, and, as Dan noted, an “icon.” Dick was the first person to park in the newly installed Veteran Parking Space at Town Hall.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21. Jay reminded the group that all meetings of the VAB will be held via Zoom at least through year-end.

ITEM 5: Adjournment: As there was no other business to come before the board and upon motion made by Chairman Pinette and seconded by Marion Dennehy, it was unanimously:
VOTED: To adjourn at 7:12 p.m.

Submitted by: Brian D. McCoubrey