



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2022

Meeting Attendees – Paul Cancelliere, Rob Ettinger, Marion Denehy, VSO Dave Mangan, Joe Dellolio, Dan Benjamin (& Lois)

Absent: Sean McGrath, Michael Owen, Bill Curran, Kristi Yentile

Special Guests:

- Bob Sardella, Sardella Sign & Graphics
- Bob Vincent, Town Council member, VAB liaison (absent)

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: conducted by all attendees

VSO Report: Wakefield Veterans monthly Food bank will be held tomorrow, Wednesday August 17th. We have two part time hourly assistants who will be trained on the process and will help with the distribution and the assembly of the items in Melrose then back to Wakefield. We currently have 21 clients on the food bank program. This will free up my office time which has become quite busy due to both the Camp LeJeune compensations and the PACT ACT decision.

We have 11 chapter 115 participants in Wakefield. The COLA increase went out with the July checks and the new re-certifications will be done from now on in July and December.

We helped one of our Vietnam Veterans from the relief fund last month to help pay his rent. The family was grateful as was the landlord. His wife has filed for social security and will be getting results of the application within 8 weeks. They also re-filed for their disabled son who lives with them thru SSDI so hopefully they will be able to be financially more stable.

We have processed four Camp Lejeune claims relating to the Contaminated water and the Veterans who have filed have received 100% compensation. They will be receiving treatments going forward from the VA. I have three additional claims to submit going forward as well.

We were contacted by the Bedford VA of a Veteran who is seeking shelter in Wakefield, but she does not qualify for the section 8 housing as she is 100% disabled and makes too much money. The SAVE team has been contacted to assist her in re-locating.

Tuesday August 30th the meet and greet for the Veterans going to Washington DC in September will be held at the Saugus VFW at 9:30 am. The local television and newspapers will be there to interview the participants. We are all set to roll, and all are looking forward to the adventure and historical visit.

The New District Director who covers Saugus, Wakefield and Melrose is Roseann Trionfi-Mazzuchelli. She began in July and is located at the Milano Center in Melrose. She comes from the Winthrop Veteran Service office and was the past President of the MVSOA.



The monthly Veteran coffee social will resume on September 17th - the third Saturday of the month. We will be discussing everything from Camp LeJeune to the PACT ACT (burn pit info) to the trip in D.C. Coffee and donuts will be provided compliments of Honey Dew.

As always, The Veteran Service Office continues to reach out to the community for any Veteran who may need our assistance from navigating benefits to agencies who can give them support, to any qualifying Veterans or spouses for the Massachusetts Chapter 115 program.

My hours of operation are Mon – Wed 7:30 am – 1:30 pm. Please call the office for further information at 781-246-6377.

VAB Openings: Paul asked Sherri to open it up, and let us know where the posting is so we can share it with interested parties.

Set of Service Flags: Paul to order a set of service flags which will be available to town for ceremonies so we don't have to borrow Melrose's— town will split costs-need a spot to permanently display (library, schools, public safety, and conference room in Town Hall). The intent for these service flags is to offer a photo location that supports military service swearing in ceremonies, enlistments, military citation/award presentations, military service separation, and military service retirement. The order is processed by William Blanchard Co, Inc, of Wakefield. These service flags are a reminder to all that our freedoms are defended each day by many who willingly serve in the Armed Forces.

Veterans Field Dedication: We are all set to go - Paul/Dan to schedule mtg with Mr Maio and Mr Fazio – should see ground-breaking within next 2 weeks. Have an unveiling on Veteran's Day – Dan & Lois Benjamin featured – and a local spokesperson (Councilor Vincent?). Dan to contact American Legion to see if they can provide a color guard (fire a volley to dedicate field?).

Veterans Day Program: Paul looking for a guest speaker and other participants for the ceremony. Has several irons in fire.

Other Business:

- Joe D. looking for ideas for his employer's (Microsoft) day of service. Marion suggested contacting the NECHV in town. 9/11 service project at Rose Kennedy Greenway. Cape Cod cares for our troops in Hyannis in November.
- Paul to collect these upcoming events and put them in a Veteran's Corner article in the Item.
- We need to check in with the Town Clerk, and do our online ethics info. Sherri will send Paul the link which he'll share with us.

Adjournment: Dave moved, and Rob seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM

Submitted by: Rob Ettinger, Wakefield VAB Secretary