



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – December 21, 2021

Meeting Attendees – Paul Cancelliere, Rob Ettinger, Jay Pinette, Marion Denehy, VSO Dave Mangan, Joe Dellolio, Brian McCoubrey, Kristi Yentile, Michael Owen

Absent: Jackie Millinor, Dan Benjamin, Melinda Cook, Sean McGrath

Item 1: Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance: conducted by all attendees

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

Item 4: VSO Report: from VSO Dave Mangan – Wakefield Veterans monthly Food bank was held last Wednesday and was very well received by 19 recipients. We have three new members coming next month. Thank you, WFP, for your continued generous support to the residents in the community who need your help.

We currently have nine clients on our Chapter 115 program with another potential three coming up in January. The recertifications have begun and although all of the documents have not been sent in, we are hoping to have them processed by next week

We have additional Aid & Attendance applications coming thru the office along with several Dependent Indemnity Compensations (DIC) for surviving spouses of Veterans who have passed due to service-connected disabilities. With this DIC program offered by the VA it can assist the surviving spouse with up to \$1,600 a month for financial sustainability.

We awarded the Medal of Liberty to the Peach Family, longtime residents of Wakefield, in recognition of Chester “James” Peach who was killed in an attack on the USS Hancock on April 7th 1945. The medal was accepted By Chester’s brother also a WW 2 Veteran by General Francis Magurn from the adjutant general’s office Hanscom Field.

After attending the Wakefield High Risk meeting last week by Zoom, there are currently no Veteran residents homeless. The client we last had a few month ago was sent to the West Roxbury VA for medical treatment and is currently been moved to the Edith Nourse VA in Bedford.

The generous contributions of GIFT cards for the chapter 115 Veterans and spouses this year for the Christmas season was greatly appreciated by all. Many thank you messages came to my office for not only the anonymous contributors, but also the First Parish Congregational church.

The Veteran Service office continues to reach out to the community for any Veteran who may need our assistance from navigating for benefits, to agencies who can give them support in many areas.

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

Item 5: Wreaths Across America – 2021 Program Recap: Great coverage by Item, much better weather this year! Terrific turnout – many new faces – nice ceremony. Well over 200 more



wreaths than were required were donated – a great head start for our event next year. Our program has really taken off since a humble beginning.

Item 6: Veteran's Corner Article: Thoughts for future articles? Jay was thinking about an article on the cannon that used to be on a concrete pad down in the Common. Fell into disrepair, was taken for repairs and never returned. So where is it? We could do articles on Chapter 115, or the Veterans Discount Program.

Item 7: Veteran's Writing Project: Colleen Getty formed Room to Write for budding authors. The Room to Write Board has discussed programs for Seniors (one was held at Brightview pre-pandemic) and Veteran's. Colleen suggested taking on the Veteran's group now. More to follow. Maybe a topic for a future meeting. Maybe advertise or discuss at Coffee Socials?

Item 8: Coffee Socials – Future Meetings Topic/Speakers: Saturday, January 8th at 10:00 am for next social. Quannapowitt Yacht Club. Kristi will confirm with Bonnie (Yacht Club) and Derek (Honey Dew) – and Eric for the flyer. Everyone should bring a buddy. Dribble into conversation about the writing project / telling stories.

Item 9: Veterans Field Memorial Project: No update for this month. Nothing to do for now over the winter.

Item 10: Memorial Day 2022 Planning: Potential speakers? Hopefully inside the Galvin, not on the Common. Andrew Biggio? No – Revere has him. Change of Command on USS Constitution soon. First female Commanding Officer. Saugus trying to get her. Saugus does their ceremony on Saturday. Let's keep thinking.

Item 11: Other Business: Jay mentioned that Jackie cannot continue on due to work demands, plans to resign from the Board. Dave has a potential candidate for the Board -m referred them to Town Hall. Sherri said Dan, Jay, and Melinda's terms expire in April. Paul C – Go see "A Christmas Truce" at Stoneham Theater.

Item 12: Adjournment: Jay moved, and Rob seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM

Submitted by: Rob Ettinger, Wakefield VAB Clerk