

Wakefield Veterans Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Call to Order

Chairman Pinette opened the meeting in the First Floor Conference Room, Wakefield Town Hall, at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present were Dan Benjamin, Melinda Cook, Rick Pearson and VSO Dave Mangan.

Board members absent were Rob Ettinger, Don & Pam Hart (all pre-notified Chairman)

Given that there was no VAB meeting in January, there were no minutes to review and/or approve.

VSO Report

VSO Mangan discussed recent operations in the Veterans' Services Office to include an overview of Chapter 115 clients and monthly benefits. VSO Mangan appeared at a recent meeting of the Wakefield Rotary Club, which was held at Brightview. He discussed his service in Thailand during the Vietnam War and provided an overview of Veterans' Services operations in Wakefield.

New Business

The meeting focused on the need for additional members.

Discussed:

Appointments should not be restricted to Veterans, but preference would be afforded to Veterans for open board seats.

With additional members the board would be able to support the Veterans' Services Office, form sub-committees as required and better support projects and outreach activities.

Size of the board should be 13 members.

Term limits are not necessarily required.

Potential projects to consider as the board moves forward:

- Member present agreed that the VAB could serve as the sponsor for Wreaths Across America in Wakefield for 2020. We need to work with Mr. Fazio and possibly start publicizing the event in September. Perhaps it could be advertised on a banner set up across Main Street in front of the Civic Center.

Projects (cont'd)

- Chapter 115 benefits training
- General Federal and State benefits overview
- Eagle Scout Project support
- Business outreach for potential Veteran benefit program
- Coffee socials and general outreach activities

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Rick Pearson, seconded by Melinda Cook. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Next meeting: March 17, 2020.

Minutes submitted by: Jay Pinette