

Veterans Council Minutes

Thursday 6 FEBRUARY 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER: 1900 hrs. with Pledge of Allegiance @ Town Hall.
2. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Janine Suchecki, Jack Rayburn, Scott McMillan, MaryAnn Blackmur, Jay Ippolitto, , Hank Maude, Tom Burbank

EXCUSED: Keith Jermyn, Frank Curtis, Joe Sweeney, Ben Dulieu

ABSENT: None

LIAISONS PRESENT: Linden Ponds - Jack Darrow

GUESTS PRESENT: VSO Administrator: Lisa Potts

3. Reviewed minutes of 9 January 2020 meeting. Approved

OFFICER REPORTS:

A) VSO Report (read by Lisa Potts):

- 1) Overall Veteran funding is looking good. VCBF - \$4555.03 VINTF - \$30,277.65 Veteran Gift Cards - \$1820.00
- 2) Possible Welcome Home Event @ GAR on or around March 29, 2020. National Vietnam Veteran's Day. Maryann Blackmur and Joe Gragg volunteered to be point persons.
- 3) Board of Selectmen are re-establishing Hingham Disabilities Commission in need of a service connected disabled vet to submit a talent bank application to represent veterans across the diverse section of applicants who will make policy change.
- 4) By-Laws must be submitted to Town Administrator no later than 15 June 2020
- 5) Pledge of Allegiance will start at future board of selectmen meetings and veterans service officer to speak to other town boards and committees to adopt.
- 6) Consolidated Flag Purchase Program-194 points to purchase new US flags and poles. Purchased over \$4800.00 in flags for the town.
- 7) Battle Of Grape Island first meeting is Tuesday February 11th at 4pm, BGID on Sunday May 17th at 1pm, will need color guard
- 8) Memorial Day-speaker Jack Chapin Chief Warrant Officer USN retired-Luncheon to follow at Grand Army of the Republic.
- 9) Grave Decoration volunteers as follows:
 - o High Street-Joe Gragg & Jay Ippolito, May 17th
 - o Hingham Centre Cemetery-Tom Burbank-Friday May 15th
 - o Old Ship Hingham Cemetery- Maryann Blackmur & Stan Blackmur
 - o St. Paul's Cemetery- Jay Ippolitto & Joe Gragg
 - o Liberty Plain-Keith Jermyn
- 10) Looking for Veterans Day Speaker

11) Discussion on Veteran of the Year Criteria-to review a matrix option and possible subcommittee-criteria to updated at march meeting-request Veteran service officer to be present at March meeting.

B) PAO Report (Janine Suchecki): none

C) Treasurers Report (Jack Rayburn): \$1000 in donations to Benefit Fund. Final report. No further treasurer's reports shall be provided based on unanimous meeting vote to eliminate position and require the veterans service office to provide updated balances at each meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS/UPDATES

- a) American Legion-No meeting
- b) Linden Ponds Veterans Association-100th Bday Marine Evelyn Swanson on 12February2020 at 2:00pm. Senator Patrick O'Connor's office will bring citation, followed by a 1-hour movie Women in the Military: Willing Able Essential. Open to the Public.
- c)

5. Tom Burbank-Review Selectmen's appointment committee handbook, Roberts rules of order, and chapter 115 section 12.

6. Bylaw Updates

- a) Addition to by-laws to add an article XX to add Pledge of Allegiance to the By-laws stating that all meetings start with the pledge of allegiance-approved unanimously.
- b) Article XY added to by-laws for veteran's service officer report to be provided balance of Veterans Benefit Fund, Veterans In Need Trust Fund, gift card balance and action items for the council. Approved unanimously
- c) Article IV- officers of the council shall be chairman-vice-chairmen and secretary, all officers shall be elected annually by a a vote of the council. Approved unanimously.
- d) Article V-voted to discuss at march meeting.
- e) Article VI-updated to remove language for end of the meeting public comment and leave as all meetings will be open to the public and appropriate time will be reserved for public comment.
- f) Article VII approved as written unanimously.
- g) By-laws to include Veteran of the Year Process to be updated at March Meeting.
- h) Final By-laws to be completed at March meeting and voted all as a whole cohesive document at this time.

7. Linden Ponds Veterans Expo Fair coordinated by Hank Maude will be April 8th 9-1pm

- a) Will have special parking and shuttle bus
- b) Would like all veterans organizations represented.
- c) Open to the Public.

8. Next Meeting of the council to be determined.

Adjourn