

Veteran's Advisory Board

Francis Kirby, President
Gene Morris, Secretary



Phil Cote
Jackie Follette
Paul Follette
Heath Hobson
Greg Mayer
Lyle Pirnie
Caster Salemi
Frank Speeckaert

MINUTES
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
April 28, 2022
6:00 PM
DPW MEETING ROOM

Fran Kirby called the special meeting to order at 18:00 and called the roll:

Members Present	Members Absent
Fran Kirby	Heath Hobson
Phil Cote	Jackie Follett
Greg Mayer	Paul Follett
Caster Salemi	
Lyle Pirnie	
Frank Speeckaert	
Gene Morris	

Invited Guests Present:

Nicole Pelletier, Veteran's Agent's Office
Steve Travers (by phone), Veteran's Agent's Office
Robert Remiesiewicz, Resident

Documents Reviewed:

1. Program and Agenda for the 2022 Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service

President Kirby opened the meeting at 1807 and called the roll. He then invited the Committee and guests present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. N/A

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Memorial Day Program

- i. The board discussed plans for this year's Memorial Day ceremonies. The ceremonies will commence at 0800 with the laying of wreaths at Mt. Hope and St. Mary's Cemeteries where there will be an Honor Guard presentation, the playing of Taps and a prayer by Pastor Carole Baker. Ceremonies at the cemeteries is expected to conclude by 0835.
- ii. The Memorial Day Parade will begin assembly at the Baptist Common at 0900. Steve Travers will open the parade with Welcoming Remarks followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Lowering of the Flag, Rifle Salute, and Taps. The parade will step off at approximately 1010 and terminate at Barrows Park.
- iii. The board discussed having a "missing man" chair symbolizing those lost. The board unanimously agreed that this was a fitting tribute. It was suggested that Paul Belham be contacted to utilize his trailer. Members also discussed transportation for older or disabled Veterans who could not march in the parade to ensure that they had a means to get to Barrows Park.
- iv. The Memorial Service will take place at Barrows Park. The program will begin at approximately 1030 or whenever all participants from the parade have assembled. The program will consist of Opening Remarks by Town Veteran's Agent Steve Travers followed by an Opening Prayer from DAV Chaplain Manny Desourdy. Phil Cote was going to check on the availability of a firing party for the Barrows ceremony. Steve Travers discussed the various speakers including the invited guest speaker Adrian Bonenberger. Additional discussion on the various program elements also ensued and it was noted that Taps should be moved to the conclusion of the ceremony.
- v. The board also discussed the placement of the flags and plaques that were made by former board member Ray King at the Methodist Church hill on Route 1. Several members volunteered to help place the flags the weekend prior to Memorial Day. Additional discussion on this topic to take place at the May 12, 2022, meeting.

IV. Old Business – No old business to discuss

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Speekaert made a motion to adjourn.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Cote and the board unanimously voted to adjourn.

President Kirby adjourned the meeting at 1902.

Appendix- Global War on Terror Monument Sub-Committee Meeting

Members Present: Greg Mayer, Lyle Pirnie, Fran Kirby, Gene Morris, Rob Remiesiewicz

The sub-committee commenced immediately following the meeting of the main board. Greg Mayer shared several designs for the GWOT monument and the potential costs. The sub-committee agreed on the “Twin Towers” design as the most attractive and it was decided to look at costs to produce that design.

The sub-committee also discussed various fund-raising strategies including soliciting donations from local businesses, formation of a “Go-fund-me” page and applying to various foundations for grants. Members discussed other options and agreed to come back at the next board meeting with updates on results.

There being no additional business, the sub-committee adjourned at 1920.