

Veteran's Advisory Board

Francis Kirby, President
Gene Morris, Secretary



Jim Blaise
Joe Costa
Phil Cote
Jackie Follett
Paul Follett
Heath Hobson
Greg Mayer
Lyle Pirnie
Robert Remiesiewicz
Caster Salemi
Frank Speeckaert

MINUTES
VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD
August 11, 2022
6:00 PM
DPW MEETING ROOM

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

| Members Present | Members Absent |
|--|-----------------------|
| Fran Kirby | Heath Hobson |
| Greg Mayer | Jackie Follett |
| Gene Morris | Paul Follett |
| Lyle Pirnie | Caster Salemi |
| Frank Speeckaert | Phil Cote |
| Joe Costa | |
| Jim Blaise, Plainville Representative | |
| Robert Remiesiewicz, Plainville Representative | |

Invited Guests Present:

Steve Travers, District Veteran's Agent
Nicole Pelletier, Veteran's Agent's Office

Documents Reviewed:

1. Minutes of April 2022 and March 2022 Meetings

President Kirby opened the meeting at 1800 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. The minutes of the meetings of April 28, 2022, and March 31, 2022, were reviewed and upon a motion by Frank Speeckaert and second by Greg Mayer, the board unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Planning for Upcoming Events

- i. 9/11 Ceremony: The board discussed the plan and schedule for this year's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. It was noted that being a Sunday morning, that gathering at the Baptist Common at 9:00am might be difficult due to church services at the Baptist Church and at St. Mary's. It was suggested that the ceremony be held in the early afternoon once the church services were over. The prevailing suggestions were to have the ceremony at 12:00 or 13:00. The board agreed that either would be acceptable and to have further discussion regarding the program and agenda at the September 8th meeting.
- ii. Air Force's Birthday: Mr. Travers suggested a that similar to the recent celebration of the Coast Guard's birthday, that a similar celebration be held for the other service anniversaries with the next one coming up being the Air Force's on September 18th. As this date falls on a Sunday this year, the board discussed having it on the preceding Thursday, September 15 as the Town Hall is open late on Thursdays, and this might accommodate additional people after working hours. Alternatively, another date might also work such as Monday, September 19th. The board will finalize plans at the September 8th meeting.
- iii. Navy's Birthday: Similar to the Air Force's anniversary, the Navy's anniversary is October 13th which is on a Thursday and also happens to be the date of the next board meeting. Further discussion on planning for this celebration tabled until next month.
- iv. The board next had a lengthy discussion about the District Veteran's Agent organizational structure. Most of the membership of this Board are residents of North Attleboro with some representation from Plainville. At present, there is no representation from Wrentham although they are covered under the District structure. The topic of whether this board should have a set of by-laws was raised. Mr. Travers agreed to look into whether other District's boards had by-laws and to draft a set for the board's consideration at the next meeting.

IV. Old Business

- a. GWOT Monument Sub-committee. There was a short discussion of the sub-committee's efforts around the establishment of a monument to those who have served on the Global War on Terror. Mr. Mayer indicated that after consultation with potential vendors, that a vendor had been selected. Next steps were to establish a 501(c)3 organization to serve as the vehicle for fundraising for the GWOT monument as well as for the future upkeep of other monuments in town. The organization, to be known as the Friends of North Attleboro Monuments was in the process of being incorporated and obtaining the required tax identification numbers. Once this was completed, then the organization could open bank accounts and begin to solicit funds for the monument construction. Further updates to be provided at the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

President Kirby adjourned the meeting at 1910.

DRAFT