

Meeting minutes. Hingham Veterans Council

Thursday, 11 Aug 2016, 7pm

1. Meeting called to order at 1905 hours, and began with pledge of allegiance. Present: Hank Maude, Janine Suchecki, Tom Burbank, Scott McMillan, Jack Rayburn, Paul Koenen, John Buckley, Keith Jermyn, and John Clifton. Absent: Dave Sargent, Maureen Demenna, Frank Curtis, and Fr. Sinisa Ubiparipovic
2. Introduction of new members, Janine Suchecki and Hank Maude.
3. Review of 7 July 2016 meeting minutes
 - a. Approved as is unanimously.
4. Treasurers report (Jack Rayburn)
 - a. Veterans Council Benefit Fund had net increase for the month of June 2016
 - b. Veterans In Need Trust Fund also net increase for the month of June 2016
 - c. Approved "as is" although will correct typo in summary header to reflect 1 June 2016 begin date
5. VSO report
 - a. Half staff summary. Half staff for recent tragedies in Nice and police shooting in Baton Rouge, LA, as well as half staff on 12 Aug 2016 for the passing of Frank Fuda.
 - b. Benefits paid details
 - c. Consolidated Flag purchase program status
 - d. Recent correspondence.
 - i. Old Colony Youth Football Event described in letter from Tom Hoffman. He and Sue Rizzo invited someone from VSO office to talk during their kick off day on 10 Sep 2016. Speaker to talk about 9/11 and about care and respect of the flag.
 - e. Home Act.
 - i. We discussed a handout showing details of a recent State House Act related to protection of our Massachusetts Veterans.
 - ii. Invited someone to act as Public Affairs Officer to help relay information to veterans in various media. Janine Suchecki will take point in improving Veterans communication through Facebook and other outlets.
 - iii. Follow-up for local action. We will promote a Hingham Town warrant, in line with Home Act, which will address benefits for town employees who are veterans or active duty.
 - iv. Proposed Warrant will be submitted to Tom Mayo.
 - f. Linden Ponds Veterans Association (talked about during VAO report)
 - i. Hank Maude informed us of activities that the Linden Ponds Veterans Association is doing.
 - ii. Their group wants to host a dinner for needy Veterans from town.
 - iii. Also have an upcoming luncheon, 9 Nov 2016, which they would like to have Keith Jermy speak at.
 - iv. They are also ylooking for a Veterans Day speaker.
 - g. Hingham Veterans Day
 - i. Speaker will be Coleman Nee. Keith Jermyn will coordinate.

- ii. Memorial Day speaker will be one of two people we are in discussions with: Captain David Chase or Col. Richard Harries. Keith and Bill Ramsey are communicating with them.
 - h. Veteran of the Year
 - i. Frank Curtis is putting together our criteria for selecting a veteran of the year. We hope to have that by September meeting.
 - j. Removal of Weapons from Harbor
 - i. Veterans groups have been talking with Historic Commission and Town Preservation Committee, and will send our letter of recommendation to remove old irreparable weapons from the Harbor. The proposal is to move them to Bare Cove Park in the care of Scott McMillan.
 - k. Soldiers Care Package organization
 - i. The First Baptist Church soldiers care package organization is in need of funds. We discussed and decided by vote as a group that the VSO would donate \$1000.00 to this excellent organization which provides so much for our soldiers and sailors who are from Hingham.
 - l. Bud Campbell Memorial
 - i. Tom Burbank briefed us on his research into the Stone, its dimensions, and some of the plusses and minuses.
 - ii. After robust discussion, we approved a plan to acquire a large stone which will bear an inscription on a metal plate in honor of Bud Campbell. Stone will be placed on Jack Ass Park on side facing Linscott Ave, as Bud is a Linscott descendent.
6. Father Bill's and Main Spring
- a. We were briefed by staff, Jeff Barkman, Michael Luongo, and April Connolly. They talked about the status of the Commander Anderson house, its tenants and turnover.
 - b. Jeff informed us that he is leaving Father Bill's.
 - c. We discussed possible computer issues.
 - d. The pizza night
 - e. Also talked about how to deal with problems, both needing immediate attention and things which can be addressed through ongoing communication.
7. We discussed Blue Star program and its progress. A recent Hingham Journal article resulted in 3 new families reaching out to the VSO office to become included. Janine volunteered to assist with the ongoing Hingham Journal articles and with a new Facebook page that she plans to introduce.

Meeting adjourned at 2108pm