

# **Scituate Veterans Advisory Council, August 21, 2012**

TOWN OF SCITUATE MASSACHUSETTS

SCITUATE VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2012

Location: Scituate Maritime Center

Members Present: Joseph Kelley (Chairman), Edward Covell (Vice Chairman), Michael Scott (Secretary), Robert McHugh (Treasurer), Vincent Fountaine, Karen Kelley, James Hunt, Jack Manning, John Miller, Dennis Badore, Don Knapp (VSO – ex officio)

Members Absent: Richard Johnson, Thomas Edwards, Ben Summers, Robert Young, VFW Commander

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Kelley

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Minutes

Motion made to approve the 7/17/2012 meeting minutes as drafted

Motion seconded

Motion passed unanimously – minutes approved and accepted

Treasurer's Report

Banner cost \$126.70

VSO Report

Heritage Days – thanks for the banner; great success; state Chairman Nee made appearance with handouts; four new applicants from booth visibility

Tax Exempt Status of VAC – form given to Treasurer McHugh for future purchases

Run for the Fallen – planned for September 8; Town Common to Peggotty Beach

Wreaths Across America – Vice Chairman Covell explains event is second Saturday in December; application due September 1; usually receive 7 wreaths representing all branches, plus POW; Mr. Hunt suggests that Town pay for wreath on every veteran grave in town; Chairman Kelley states that this event has had poor exposure in town in the past; Treasurer McHugh suggests that VAC contact state and Chairman Nee for state support; Mr. Hunt suggests asking the Selectman to pay for the event; VSO Knapp says that he may add this event to his annual budget request; Vice Chairman Covell reminds VAC that the Legion handles Cudworth Cemetery, but need coverage elsewhere; Chairman Kelley pledges to add this event to the Selectman's agenda

Eagle Scout Project – VSO Knapp met with Noel and his father; site visit to Hingham

VSO Office Hours – Chris is working 15 hours/week; working through files/organizing

Technology – VSO Knapp mentions Boston Globe article from August 20 which explains software download available for veterans to access self-help tools such as a distress meter and PTSD coach

Caseload – one recipient off benefits due to move to Cohasset; Chairman Kelley suggests a fall outreach

be planned; Vice Chairman Covell suggests outreach events at Run for the Fallen, on Veterans Day, and during Wreaths Across America

#### Chairman's Report

Chairman Kelley thanks the following members for working hard at Heritage Days and manning the booth: Mr. McHugh, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Fontaine, Mr. Summers, and Mr. Badore

Chairman Kelley discusses the upcoming Run for the Fallen coordinated by the Military Friends Foundation to be held September 8 in Scituate; honoring 194 fallen soldiers since 9/11; event is for awareness and to honor the fallen, not a fundraiser

Vice Chairman Covell discusses need to boost participation for Veterans Day observances, including free turkey dinner at GAR Hall; looking to build comradeship amongst veterans; Mr. Hunt volunteers to send mailer to veterans on voting roll; VAC table at dinner; discussion of flag placements around town during Veterans Day observances

#### Public Comment

Vice Chairman Covell re-visits discussion of Wreaths Across America event; Mr. Miller and Mr. Fontaine mention Scituate Public Schools "Virtual Backpack" as a forum for promoting event

Mr. Fontaine suggests VAC shirts for public exposure

Next meeting date set for September 18, 2012, at 7 pm, at Maritime Center

Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded; vote unanimous and meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Scott, Secretary