

Veteran's Advisory Council, September 18, 2012

TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCITUATE VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – September 18, 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, Richard Johnson, Ben Summers, Don Knapp (VSO – ex officio)

Members Absent: Thomas Edwards, Robert Young, VFW Commander

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Kelley

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Minutes

Motion made to approve the 8/21/2012 meeting minutes as drafted

Motion seconded

Motion passed unanimously – minutes approved and accepted

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McHugh reported a balance of \$873.30 on account

Correspondence

Chairman Kelley reported that the VAC had received a letter from the Board of Selectmen indicating that they will announce the Wreaths Across America program at their meetings, but no town money is budgeted for the program

Chairman Kelley reported that an article will be presented at Special Town Meeting in November concerning a Veterans Assistance check-off to be added to tax bills

Chairman Kelley reported on a letter from Camp Edwards concerning tours for the public on-base during the weekend of September 22-23, including a review of Tactical Base Kelley, which is a replica of an Afghanistan base and is intended to reduce the "risk zone" for soldiers by helping deployed soldiers acclimate more quickly to the environment in Afghanistan; recent numbers show that TB Kelley has helped reduce acclimatization time from 100 days to 35 days

Chairman Kelley referenced a "Run for the Fallen" article reported in the Patriot Ledger and noted the positive exposure for Scituate

VSO Report

VSO Knapp reported that veterans services are busy at the state and town level, with Scituate's census of c. 115 recipients at 13 with two more expected to come on board soon

VSO Knapp reported that he is working with three veterans suffering from PTSD and how he has been

spending time with one particular veteran and the SAVE team

VSO Knapp reported that federal claims are coming in and Chris is very busy; VSO Knapp reported that he needs a full-time clerical person and Mr. Hunt encouraged VSO Knapp to press the Town Administrator for more assistance in his office

VSO Knapp reported on the Eagle Scout project underway at St. Mary's Cemetery and Chairman Kelley noted that Noel is being delayed by the internal approval process for Eagle Scout projects; Mr. Johnson related how it is a two-step approval process

VSO Knapp reported on the Kieve Veterans Camp in Maine as a good opportunity for veterans to connect with and support one another

Chairman's Report

Chairman Kelley reported on the recent "Run for the Fallen" event held in Scituate and sponsored by the Military Friends Foundation; over 600 participants and very few wrinkles; Chairman Kelley expressed concern about the absence of town officials attending this event, but overall a positive event for everyone

Chairman Kelley discussed an article in the Patriot Ledger reporting on the Kelley Freedom Trail off of Route 3A near the town reservoir; Chairman Kelley noted that the trail is a good reminder to people of the cost of freedom

Chairman Kelley and Vice Chairman Covell discussed plans for Veterans Day meal; over 1,200 on the mailing list; Mr. Hunt has taken the lead on the mailing; Mr. Manning will submit the project to students in graphic design at South Shore Vocational Technical High School; Mr. Fountaine proposed a postcard design for the mailer; it is agreed that the invitation to veterans will come from the American Legion and the Scituate VAC

General and lengthy discussion regarding the role, duties, and responsibilities of the Scituate Veteran Services Officer; Chairman Kelley, VSO Knapp, and members of the VAC candidly discuss a variety of viewpoints on the issue

General discussion of Wreaths Across America program, including raising funds and getting notices to residents through the school system's Virtual Backpack

Public Comment

None

Next meeting date set for October 16, 2012, at 7 pm at Maritime Center

Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded; vote unanimous and meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Scott, Secretary