

# **Scituate Veterans Advisory Council, October 16, 2012**

TOWN OF SCITUATE MASSACHUSETTS

SCITUATE VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – October 16, 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, Don Knapp (VSO – ex officio)

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Minutes

Motion made to approve the 9/18/2012 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 reviewed an email from Mr. Miller which discussed a recent article in USA Today addressing the issue of homeless veterans

Chairman Kelley discussed Operation Flags for Vets where 56,000 flags were placed in honor of fallen service members

Chairman Kelley reviewed a presidential proclamation declaring Gold Star Mother's & Father's Day 2012

Chairman Kelley addressed an anonymous letter received by Mr. Hunt which was critical of the town's response to the Run for the Fallen; general discussion of how to respond, if at all, to the letter; general agreement that Mr. Hunt will draft a letter to the town for VAC review that will highlight the VAC's concerns about the town's response to the Run for the Fallen

Chairman Kelley mentioned that the tax check-off article to benefit veterans services is going forward at the Special Town Meeting; Vice-Chairman Covell suggests that the VAC propose an article for the town warrant that would add a line-item to the veterans services budget for the Wreaths Across America program

VSO Report

VSO Knapp reported that Scituate's census of c. 115 recipients is at 15 with two more expected by the end

of the month; an increase in annual budget is inevitable; discussion of Marshfield Council on Aging meetings where veterans services are reviewed; discussion of federal claims and extra work performed by VSO Knapp helping veterans with VA paperwork (up to 50% of his time spent on federal claims); general discussion of veterans who get into trouble with criminal courts

#### Chairman's Report

Chairman Kelley reported that Noel's Eagle Scout Project is approved and underway

General discussion of Veterans Day ceremonies, including the meal offered to veterans by the American Legion at the GAR Hall

General discussion about producing a "newsletter" to inform veterans of local services and events; Vice-Chairman Covell made a motion that the VAC pursue the feasibility of producing a veterans newsletter; motion seconded; motion passed unanimously

General discussion of replacing flags on veterans gravesites, as necessary

#### Public Comment

Mr. Johnson introduced the Welcome Home Program at the YMCA and the VAC heard from Katelyn Kervin, fitness instructor at the YMCA in Hanover, who explained the fitness program available at a reduced fee for veterans

Next meeting date set for November 20, 2012, at 7 pm at Maritime Center

Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded; vote unanimous and meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Scott, Secretary