

Scituate Veterans Advisory Council, January 15, 2013

SCITUATE VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2013

Location: Scituate Maritime Center

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

Members Absent: Karen Kelley, Jack Manning, Ben Summers, VFW Commander

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

Pledge of Allegiance recited

Minutes

Motion made to approve the 11/26/2012 meeting minutes as drafted

Motion seconded

Motion passed unanimously – minutes approved and accepted

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McHugh reported an unchanged balance of \$873.30 on account

Chairman Kelley reported that a deposit of approximately \$1,000 will be made shortly (proceeds from Rotary fund drive over the holidays)

Correspondence

Chairman Kelley reviewed two articles recently published in the Scituate Mariner – a December 27, 2012, story entitled “Words of Thanks and Cheer” reporting on the Girls Scouts involvement with sending holiday greeting cards to local veterans; and a December 20, 2012 story reporting on the Wreaths Across America event in Scituate

Vice Chairman Covell remarked that he has received much “positive feedback” from veterans concerning the holiday cards

Mr. Fountaine stated that of the hundreds of cards mailed, only four were returned as undelivered

Guest Presentation

The VAC heard from Denise Murphy and Joan Churchill of the Visiting Nurses Association of Boston, who described the hospice services offered by the VNA to terminally ill veterans through their “wounded warriors” program; Ms. Murphy explained with pride the Certificate of Appreciation the VNA provides to each patient who is a veteran; Ms. Murphy noted that the federal VA now provides hospice services as an end-of-life benefit to veterans, which is a benefit that did not exist ten years ago; the VA can refer VA patients to the VNA for hospice care

VSO Report

VSO Knapp reported that he has completed the FY'14 budget for Veterans Services and he has passed the budget through the Town Administrator with minimal cuts; on to the Board of Selectman and Advisory Committee next

VSO Knapp has ordered flags for Memorial Day, and requested the maximum of 5% over last year's amount

VSO Knapp has ordered plastic flag markers (generic "US Veteran")

VSO Knapp reported that today he completed the annual recertification of c. 115 clients

VSO Knapp reported that for Christmas all 15 of the Town's c. 115 beneficiaries had trees and presents under the trees

VSO Knapp stated that his work-flow remains steady and heavy, with much federal paperwork

Eagle Scout Project

Chairman Kelley reported that Noel has completed a catalogue of the cemetery (St. Mary's) and is working on maps of the cemetery

Monitoring of Veterans Gravesites

Mr. Johnson reported on the horrendous condition of flags in the Fairview Cemetery

General discussion of what to do about the situation; various proposals included placing one main flag pole at each cemetery instead of individual flags at each veteran gravesite, replacing every flag year-round as needed, enlisting others (including high school students) to re-flag the cemeteries, or re-flagging only on Memorial Day when the Town pays for the flags; ultimate conclusion was to buy more flags and do our best to replace every flag, as needed, year-round; agreement to purchase 3 gross of flags for now

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Fountaine had proposed replacing the flagpole at Cudworth Cemetery; agreement reached that the VAC will present this project to the Board of Selectman for consideration

Council Terms of Service

Chairman Kelley tabled this topic until the next meeting

Newsletter

General discussion of the parameters, cost, frequency (two weeks prior to Memorial Day and two weeks prior to Veterans Day), content, and mailing list

Public Comment

None

Next meeting date set for February 19, 2013, at 7 pm at Maritime Center

Motion to adjourn meeting made and seconded; vote unanimous and meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Scott, Secretary