

## Minutes of Marshfield Veterans Council Meeting (Approved by council on 10/2/2017)

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Bob Weaver began announcing that the meeting was being recorded.

Bob then introduce himself as the new Veterans Council Chairman and stated that his hopeful that the council could be more than parade planners going forward

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM with the following Veterans Council Members present: Chairman Robert (Bob) Weaver, DAV; Vice-Chair Jamie, Ducey, DAV; Clerk Heather White, DAVA; Ladie Dexter, AMVETS; George Earle, American Legion; Bob Griffin, KWVA

There was an issue with the meeting minutes from the May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 meeting. The meeting was held at the VFW and because of the surrounding background news the recording was inaudible.

- **Veterans Day Parade**

- Jamie Ducey to contact the trolley company.
- The parade will be Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.
- Jamie Ducey asked about flags and holders along the parade route and getting the damaged/ lost flags replaced. Bill Dodge stated that the flags and holders were purchased by Barney Dowd using Town Funds and are being stored at the VFW. Bob stated that there would need to have a detail to replace said flags.
- Heather White to contact the media.
- Bob Weaver to touch base with the clergy.
- Bill Dodge to contact the head custodian at the Furnace Brooke Middle school regarding a backup plan for inclement weather. The custodian has asked for 1 ½ - 2 months' notice before each parade, for scheduling purposes.
- Bob Weaver to contact the soundman Brian Macfee
- Bob asked if Roger Egan was going to sing God Bless America and Jamie stated that he thought we had discussed having a student sing it. A suggestion was made to contact the band leader at the high school. Bill Dodge pointed out that there would not be enough time at this point to get someone from the school.
- Bob Weaver asked if there would be a Grand Marshall for the parade. Bill Dodge John Medlin a Korean vet. Motion made by Heather White. Seconded by Jamie Ducey. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.
- A suggestion was made to consider asking a local military group to march in the parade. George Earl said that the was something that needed to be done 6-12 months prior to the event and Carin Paulette stated that it is difficult to get military groups involved for a number of factors and also because they are already stretched thin.

- **Flags on Graves**

- The date for flags on graves TDB
- Flags to be ordered by Bill Dodge and also contact scout groups.
- New Veterans Graves Officer needs to be identified and appointed by the Board of Selectmen; previous officer Barney Dowd does not wish to be reappointed. The Veterans Graves Officer needs to be a resident of the Town of Marshfield. Veterans' Graves Officer needs to make sure the graves of veterans in the Town of Marshfield are cared for and the graves are decorated for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Bill Dodge asked that the word be put out to each of the groups.
- Carin Paulette stated that the details for grave decorating i.e. time and location are available on the town website.

- **Open Discussion**

- George Earle asked if the Veterans Council has a mailing list. Bob was unaware of such a list but, would check with Barney. George made the suggestion that the council should contact members by mail informing them of meeting dates. Heather suggested a standing day each month to have the meeting due to the fact that the council does not have a budget for paper and postage. The council has been using email for all communications. Bob Weaver suggested sending a mailing to all veterans in town regarding the council or a newsletter keeping veterans informed about events and activities in Marshfield concerning veterans.
  - Bob proposed that in the future each group that makes up the Veterans Council might consider paying yearly dues.
  - Bob asked if there was currently a budget. In previous meetings there was talk of the Kiwanis Club donating \$2000.00 to the Veterans Council. Jamie Ducey stated that the money may have gone to the flags that lined the parade route. Bill stated the flags were purchased using town funds. Bob stated that there may be funds out there and if there is there should be some oversight perhaps a Treasurer.
  - Carin made the suggestion of contacting the newspaper to do an article about the council.
  - Bill Dodge stated that a newsletter would be a lot of work and that the council may want to consider other means of communication i.e. the newspaper, town website, Council on Aging or social media.
  - Bill was asked how many veterans there were in town. Bill stated that the town clerk has a list of veterans, the number is somewhere around 1486; a veteran is anyone that served on active duty other than for training purposes for 180 consecutive days.
  - Bob Weaver is looking for suggestion, ideas, and projects for the future.
- **Marshfield veterans housing**
    - Neighbor Works gave a presentation at the Selectman's meeting to see if the town would be interested in building a veterans house in Marshfield. Suggestion is the old Hancock Paint building. Housing would be single room occupancy only. Bill and Carin traveled to Weymouth to talk/ tour the house that opened in Weymouth last April. There will be a vote at the next town meeting to have the Hancock building as the possible location. Bill is looking for support from a Veterans at the next town meeting on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
    - Housing is special voucher base. There would be a lottery with preference to homeless veterans who meeting certain requirements.
    - Counseling and other service are also provided in addition to the housing.
  - **Marshfield High School swim team is looking for a flag to be donated for home swim meets**
    - Season runs through October.
    - Donations are welcomed.
  - **WWII Honor Flight**
    - Honor Flight out of Boston in April or May. Bill Dodge is looking for help getting the word out.
  - **Thank you from Bill Dodge to the KWVA and Jim Cantwell for putting on the ceremony in Memory of Frank Hayes.**
  - **Next meeting to be held on the Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017**

- **Suggestions for next meeting**
  - Establishing a standing meeting time
  - Veterans fair

**Meeting ended at 7:56 PM.**