

TOWN OF WENHAM
Veteran's Committee
Meeting of 12 February 2019
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Committee members, a meeting of the Veterans Committee was posted for 0900 on Tuesday 12 February 2019 in the Selectmen Chambers.

The mission of the Veterans Committee is to perpetuate and support the Veteran's, ceremonies, events, and other activities in the Town of Wenham. The Veterans Committee consists of up to (9) members appointed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS) who will assist Veterans and their families, as appropriate, in cooperation with other organizations and agencies. The Veterans Committee was appointed by the Board of Selectmen on 21 March 2017.

B. Blanchard (2020); R. Breaker (2020); J. Bubriski (2020); W. Dodge (2021); M. Lucy (2021); D. Pedersen (2021); P. Hersee (2019); Selectman J. Wilhelm, Ex-officio Voting (2019); William Wilson (2019)

- Call to order – With a quorum present, Mr. Pedersen called the meeting to order at 0900.

Committee present: Dean Pedersen, Chair; Bruce Blanchard; Robert Breaker; Win Dodge; Jack Wilhelm; Bill Wilson

Not present: Mike Lucy; Joe Bubriski; Peter Hersee

Also present: Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary; Gary Cheeseman, Chair Cemetery Commission

- Minutes – 8 January 2019

Vote: The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of 8 January 2019.

- Report: VSO Karen Tyler - Ms. Tyler was not present. There was no update.

- Wenham COA - Jennifer Flynn

Ms. Flynn introduced herself as the outreach marketing coordinator and asked the committee how the COA could best assist Veteran's in Wenham and how to encourage veterans to participate in COA programs.

Ms. Flynn noted the COA mails out a monthly newsletter and she sends out a weekly email and said there was a space the Veterans' Committee could utilize to make an announcement or share a piece of information.

Ms. Flynn offered to coordinate with the Tea House a coffee/pastry gathering for veteran's.

Other suggestions discussed was to provide a speaker on specific interests of veterans, hold a memoir writing class for veterans, provide a luncheon.

The Committee agreed a coffee April 24 would allow time to promote the event and send out invitations.

- Veterans Memorial: Bruce Blanchard

Mr. Blanchard reported the Veteran's Memorial Maintenance Fund Balance was \$3,629.17 and the Construction Account balance was \$9,716.25

Mr. Blanchard noted the challenge to provide a light on the American flag flown as the Veteran's Memorial during the night. He reported that electrical installation would be very expensive and solar lighting has not been successful to date. If the solar lighting cannot be used, the Committee asked Mr. Blanchard to look into a light mounted off the street light pole.

Mr. Blanchard brought up the possibility of adding memorial pavers to the existing layout. One possibility was to add pavers in the corners. This would allow for seven additional pavers, otherwise, another row would need to be added at a significant cost of \$7,000.

Mr. Blanchard mentioned the existing memorial pavers around the Veteran's Memorial should be leveled and maintained. The Committee agreed it would be best to meet at the Veteran's Memorial in the spring before making this decision.

Mr. Blanchard requested to purchase 7 pavers for a couple families interested in having them engraved in time for Memorial Day.

Vote: The Committee unanimously voted to authorize Bruce Blanchard to purchase 7 pavers for the not to exceed a cost of \$2,000.

- Wreaths Across America: Bill Wilson, Win Dodge, Gary Cheeseman

The 2019 Goal is to place a wreath on each veteran's grave in the Main Street Cemetery, Iron Rail Cemetery and possibly the Fairfield cemetery. The fund-raising goal would be \$5000 for the purchase of 500 wreaths.

More publicity is planned for the fund raising to be promoted throughout the year and to encourage greater participation from public officials, residents, and family members.

Approved 3.12.19

- Donation- Wreaths Across America

The Committee acknowledged a \$1000 donation for wreaths from the Air Force Association, Paul Revere Chapter, dated December 14, 2019 delivered by Mike Therrien, Treasurer and Wenham resident.

VOTE: The Committee unanimously voted to recommend the Board of Selectmen accept the \$1000 gift for the 2019 Wreaths Across America Fund.

- Draft letter: Two Town Exploratory Memorial Day Committee

VOTE: The Committee unanimously voted to recommend to forward this letter to the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

- Memorial Day 2019

The Committee agreed this year's protocol be the same as last year.

Letters to the bands, scouts, and schools will be sent and the Committee will consider a speaker ceremony at the Cemetery.

Mr. Pedersen will prepare a check list for Memorial Day.

Mr. Breaker suggested the Committee look into designing a challenge coin to give out for special occasions.

- The next MTG is 12 March 2019

- Adjournment - *The Committee unanimously adjourned at 10:15.*

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
2.13.19