

Title: Veteran's Services Advisory Board

22 Sep 2016



From: Veteran's Agent

Subject: Meeting Minutes

1. The forty-third meeting of the Veteran's Services Advisory Board (VSAB) was called to order at 6:00 p.m., 22 Sep 2016, in the VSA office area.

2. Members in attendance were:

Mr. Ray Janke

Ms. Jan Jourdain

Mr. Vincent Viglione

Mr. Joe Currier

Members Absent were:

Mr. Gerry Desilets (resigned)

Mr. Bill Bowen

Mr. Edward Dice (moved)

Mr. Bill McClure

Mr. Anthony McAvoy

Selectman Archie Archible

Mr. Robert Vigneault

Mr. Larry Raines

3. Old Business:

a. VSAB statement of support for ESGR program is still being worked by Select-board member Mr. Archible. **(OPEN)**

b. The past Memorial Day activities were reviewed. Due to inclement weather, the event was held indoors at the Congregational Church. The event at South Cemetery was cancelled. A process will be discussed to better communicate last minute changes. **(OPEN)**

c. Mr. Janke briefed that Belchertown has been officially designated a "Purple Heart" Community. Nine signs have been installed on the entrance roads coming into town. **(CLOSED)**

4. New Business:

a. Mr. Janke stated that VSAB member, Gerry Desilets, has resigned and Mr. Ed Dice has moved. Mr. Joe Currier was introduced as a new member; he is a former active duty Army member. **(CLOSED)**

b. Upcoming Veteran's Day news release and schedule of activities were reviewed by the board. Minor changes were made. The event will be held on 11 November 2016. **(OPEN).**

c. Mr. Viglione briefed that the flags will be changed on the Town Common the week of Veteran's Day. **(OPEN)**

5. Public Input/Concerns/Comments:

a. Mr. John Sullivan, 28 year Air Force Reservist and "Mentor Coordinator" from Western Mass Veterans Treatment Court, was introduced. Mr. Sullivan made a short

presentation explaining the program and was seeking volunteer mentors for the program.
(CLOSED)

6. Good of the VSAB:

a. Mr. Janke briefed on the following items:

- Concurrent retirement disability pay
- VA Home Loan eligibility

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. All documents that were provided during the meeting will be attached to the original minutes on file in the Town Clerk's office. The next meeting will be held at the call of the chairman.

Vincent Viglione
VSAB Recording Secretary

Approved



Ray Janke
Veteran's Service Agent
Co-Chairperson

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Administrator
Board of Selectman
Committee members