

Seekonk Veterans' Council		
3.8.2023	7:00pm	Senior Center Cafe
Meeting called by	Kevin Kugel	
Type of meeting	Seekonk Veterans Council Meeting, Audio #043	
Chairman	Kevin Kugel	
Audio/Transcriber	James LaFlame	
Attendees	Committee Members: Kevin Kugel (Chair), Bill Curtis (Vice Chair), Moises Moniz, Russell Pion, Adam Tumlinson, LaNon Neary & Joseph Raez Other: James LaFlame (VSO), Kathy Larrivee (Legion Aux) Absent: None	
Meeting Minutes		
Discussion	Meeting minutes for February 8th, 2023 approved.	
Action Items	Send to Town Clerk and posted on town website	
Deadline	ASAP	
Agenda Topic		
	VSO/Chair Updates	

VSO/Chair Updates	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jim attended the Southeastern Massachusetts Veterans Services Officer's regional business meeting & training on March 1st at Westport VFW Post 8502.2. He's been processes lots of VA compensation packets, especially Camp Lejeune and PACT Act related cases.3. Jim heard back from Sign Design regarding banners. The quote was much higher than expected, banners were \$145 per banner, not including hardware.4. Other VSOs told him they quoted for around \$50 a banner. For comparison, FastSigns was \$98 a banner, although it was a smaller size.5. Jim will see if he can get a better quote for the next meeting. Even if FastSigns ends up being cheaper, no one was pleased with their customer service.6. Kevin is drafting a letter to thank the corporate sponsors of the Holiday Festival.

Agenda Topic

Old Business

Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony/Luncheon

Discussion

1. Jim mentioned that the pay for Bristol County Fife and Drum will be paid out of the Memorial Day parade account line, not Channel 9. They have committed to performing at the parade.
2. Jim and Kathy will coordinate to ensure there is no overlap with invites. Jim will handle all of the ceremony participants, all bands & the Southeastern Massachusetts Military Vehicles Collectors Club. Kathy will handle all other prospective parade participants.
3. Kathy will give Jim all of her letters, once ready, and he will utilize the postage machine at town hall to get them mailed out.
4. Adam is in talks with Epic Movie Cars, there is a possibility of getting a number of vehicles featured in movies and television shows. He will try to book them for Veterans Day as well.
5. LaNon will try for school sports teams to participate, including cheerleaders and also local dance schools.
6. The Hurley Middle School band is not available this year due to their 8th grader's trip to D.C., it wouldn't leave enough players to march. They are interested in having their chorus sing for Veterans Day.

Agenda Topic	
Old Business	Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony/Luncheon
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Adam is talking to Katie's Cookies about possibly being a vendor for Memorial Day. Joe will check with Orange Leaf, if not available – Kevin has a lead with Tricycle Ice Cream.8. LaNon had checked with Scialo's Bakery. Unfortunately, they are not available for Memorial Day (will be out of town), but is receptive to doing something for Veterans Day.9. The council is sponsoring the luncheon at the American Legion after the parade (12pm – 2pm). We will reimburse the cost of the burgers and hot dogs.10. Kathy mentioned that the turnout in past years has not been great, so we will help getting the word out. Jim will put an article for all three events in the Town Crier and The Reporter. Kathy will add it to the American Legion's events listing in The Reporter.11. Bill talked to Rep. Howitt about a group in Rehoboth that may be able to march. Jim will check with the Rehoboth VSO.12. Jim will ask Bill Soule to be our Grand Marshal this year, as he turns 100 years old in November. Bill said Rep. Howitt should have a car for him to ride in the parade. Kevin will look into getting him a sash.

Agenda Topic	
New Business	Real Estate Tax Exemption for Service-Connected Veterans
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mo brought up the fact that he was told his VA compensation letter had to be dated in July.2. Jim was under the assumption that the Board of Assessor's request that the letter be dated in the fiscal year of the exemption. This has been problematic as the VA has typically mailed out the letters in June – one month prior the new fiscal year.3. They will accept the letters generated on eBenefits, but many veterans in town don't have computer access.4. Jim will check with the Assessor's Office for clarification on the policy.5. If need be, council members may want to attend one of their meetings to request a change in policy.
Topic	Adjournment
Motion made by Russ to adjourn, seconded by Joe and voted unanimously	