

Seekonk Veterans' Council	
2.8.2023	7:00pm
Senior Center Cafe	
Meeting called by	Kevin Kugel
Type of meeting	Seekonk Veterans Council Meeting, Audio #042
Chairman	Kevin Kugel
Audio/Transcriber	James LaFlame
Attendees	Committee Members: Kevin Kugel (Chair), Bill Curtis (Vice Chair), Russell Pion, Adam Tumlinson, LaNon Neary & Joseph Raez Other: James LaFlame (VSO), Kathy Larrivee (Legion Aux) Absent: Moises Moniz (excused)
Meeting Minutes	
Discussion	Meeting minutes for November 9th, 2022 approved.
Action Items	Send to Town Clerk and posted on town website
Deadline	ASAP
Agenda Topic	
	VSO/Chair Updates

VSO Updates			
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jim will be headed to Leominster February 15th for a one day business meeting/training for the Massachusetts Veterans Services Officers Association.2. Two Chapter 115 clients had passed away since the last meeting, one veteran and one widow of a veteran.3. The town website has changed and Veterans Services doesn't show up under the Departments tab, rather the under the Veterans Council, which is under the government tab.4. The new company allows a limited number of pages, Jim is trying to get the department's page more accessible once the website is completely functional.5. Phase II of the Senior Center renovation is going well, so possibly by the summertime, the VSO will have a much needed larger office and additional storage space.6. The Veterans Memorial Gift Account fund is now at \$4,532.99 up from last year's \$692.99.		

Agenda Topic	
New Business	Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kathy has a list of parade participants for invitation letters.2. Jim was contacted by flag football, a new participant for this year.3. The parade is set for Saturday, May 27th with a 9:00am arrival time and a 10:00am step-off.4. Jim read through his notes from last year's AAR.5. As we get closer to the event, Jim will check to see if there are any other events scheduled at the high school that day that could affect parade set up and parking. He'll also check to see if participants can use the restrooms near the school's band room.6. Kevin will bring walkie talkies to be used for easier communication.7. Parks and Rec notified Jim that a golf cart will be available to us on Memorial Day or any other day it might be needed.8. Bill Soule should be this year's grand marshal as he turns 100 years old in November.9. Water sales were at a minimum due to weather last year, the table should be on the other side of the walkway.10. Kathy has poppy kits; each kit makes 1,000 poppies. Donations have to go to veteran rehabilitation.

Agenda Topic	
Old Business	Holiday Festival
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Four prospective sponsors were on the waiting list that did not get trees this past year.2. There was lots of juggling of sponsors and late payments received as opposed to the initial year.3. Bill suggested having a set of rules for sponsors, like what is done at Slater Park.4. Kevin suggested we start earlier, announcing the Holiday Festival on Memorial Day and having all trees sold by Veterans Day.5. Kevin will draft up a letter to thank corporate sponsors.6. 50 seems to be a good number for the number of trees, keeping them close together.7. Bill will contact our current tree supplier and let him know that we should know ASAP if there is to be a price change – no surprises.8. In the second year, trees were taller – but sparser. All agreed, shorter but fuller is better.9. It was agreed that the tree lighting ceremony, albeit last minute, was a success with more people attending than expected.10. There was discussion of possible adding a Santa Claus and hot cocoa.

Agenda Topic	
Old Business	Holiday Festival (continued)
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Bill tested all of the light sets used this past year.12. There was discussion of setting up a schedule for the maintenance/upkeep of trees and lights during the course of the event. Bill was doing most of that work.13. Tear down of the site was very executed in a very efficient manner, it only took 40 minutes. Part of that was the favorable weather, as the rebar was very easy to pull out of the ground as opposed to the previous year.14. Bill asked that when other council members are soliciting donations from business to let him know so they are not hit up by multiple people.15. LaNon suggested added verbiage to the donation letter to let businesses know what the money will be used for. <p>**Future meetings were set for March 8th, April 12th, May 10th and 24th.</p>
Topic	Adjournment
Motion made by Joe to adjourn, seconded by Adam and voted unanimously	