

Seekonk Veterans		
4.2.2024	7:00pm	Senior Center Cafe
Meeting called by	Kevin Kugel	
Type of meeting	Seekonk Veterans Council Meeting, Audio #060	
Chairman	Kevin Kugel	
Audio/Transcriber	James LaFlame	
Attendees	<p>Committee Members: Kevin Kugel (Chair), William Curtis (Vice Chair), Moises Moniz, Russ Pion, Adam Tumlinson, Joseph Raez & Matt Pezzullo Other: James LaFlame (VSO), Kathy Larivee (Legion Auxiliary) Absent: none</p>	
Meeting Minutes		
Discussion	Meeting minutes for February 26, 2025 approved.	
Action Items	Send to Town Clerk and post on town website	
Deadline	ASAP	
Agenda Topic		
	VSO Updates	

VSO Updates	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jim is still not registered on the VA's site of accredited NSOs, despite passing the test in January. He is still authorized to do VA claims through an agreement with the VA and EOVS.2. The state is using new software for claims, migrating before any training was given to the VSOs. There are some glitches to be worked out.3. In addition to meeting with the Finance Committee, all department heads had to attend the previous select board meeting in case of any questions. Some of the accounting lines were decreased from what Jim had originally budgeted – although that happened to most of the departments this year.4. April is the month of the military child.

Agenda Topic		
Old Business	Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony & Cookout	
Discussion		<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kevin mentioned that there were some changes to the rally points. He talked of the possibility of changing the muster site to the YMCA & Knights of Columbus lots, since the first units in the parade were finishing before the last units started. Those lots are much smaller than the SHS lot, so it won't work for our purposes.2. Spacing has been an issue of late, especially when the muskets stop frequently to fire. It was suggested that putting them toward the front of the parade would work best.3. Kevin suggested that the council walk along the divisions to control the flow instead of riding on the fire truck. He recommended Zello, an app that would allow us to communicate like walkie-talkies on our cell phones.4. Jim will get the golf cart from Parks & Rec.5. Joe and Matt might not be available the day of the parade, depending on the lacrosse schedule.6. Kathy confirmed that the American Legion will again be hosting the cookout, to be held from 12-2pm.7. We will add the cookout to all of our flyers and articles for Memorial Day weekend.

Agenda Topic		
Old Business	Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony & Cookout (continued)	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Kathy will add the cookout to the parade invitation letter and get it to Jim ASAP for signing. Jim will mail the letters once every is all set.9. Jim sent out all of the invites to the bands and ceremony participants. He will request military vehicles from Rick Levesque's military vehicle collector's club.10. Adam is requesting the movie cars again.11. Joe will make a flyer for the schools.12. Jim will get the events advertised on the senior center message board and Joe will coordinate the message boards with the schools.	

Agenda Topic	
New Business	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Doreen Taylor is looking to close the Friends of the Seekonk Veterans Memorial Park account and is looking to us for ways to spend the money. Suggestions included a bench and planters at the Vietnam memorial, and updated sign at the park to include Space Force – and the service stones at town hall for the same reason. An POW/MIA chair for the park. Also, the KIA banners will need to be replaced in the next couple of years.2. Council members have been contacting possible vendors for Holiday Festival trees. We are looking for good quality trees (not too short) and to advertise sooner. Kevin suggested we may go back down to 35 trees.3. Mo has a contact for making Seekonk a Purple Heart town, he will keep us informed. We would have to buy the signs, so that is perhaps another way to spend the money from the "Friends" account.
Topic	Adjournment
Motion made by Joe to adjourn, seconded by Adam and voted unanimously	