

Seekonk Veterans' Council		
4.12.2023	7:00pm	Senior Center Cafe
Meeting called by	Bill Curtis	
Type of meeting	Seekonk Veterans Council Meeting, Audio #044	
Chairman	Kevin Kugel	
Audio/Transcriber	James LaFlame	
Attendees	Committee Members: Bill Curtis (Vice Chair), Russell Pion, Adam Tumlinson, LaNon Neary & Joseph Raez Other: James LaFlame (VSO), Kathy Larrivee (Legion Aux) Ken Talbot (American Legion Post 311), Jay French Absent: Kevin Kugel (excused), Moises Moniz (excused)	
Meeting Minutes		
Discussion	Meeting minutes for March 8th, 2023 approved.	
Action Items	Send to Town Clerk and posted on town website	
Deadline	ASAP	
Agenda Topic		
	VSO Updates	

VSO/Chair Updates	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is now known as the Executive Office of Veterans Services (EOVS). State Rep. Jon Santiago, a Major in the USAR, is the first cabinet level Secretary of Veterans Services. The position no longer falls under the Secretary of Health and Human Services.</li><li>2. Joe dropped off the new Veterans Council shirts, so they will be passed out following the meeting. Jim will reimburse Joe for the cost of the shirts with our accounting line.</li><li>3. Boy Scout Troop 1 will be replacing the grave markers flags in both the Seekonk Cemetery and the West Avenue Cemetery.</li><li>4. Sign Design's KIA banner quote came in higher than expected. The quote was over \$6,000, Jim was able to get them under \$5,000, banners went from \$145 per to \$106.25. The hardware was discounted as well.</li><li>5. Jim will make sure that the banners are custom fitted to the brackets, so we don't have all the lateral movement we had with the last banners.</li><li>6. He will also check to see if they can be finished prior to Memorial Day, with enough time for installation.</li></ol>

Agenda Topic	
Old Business	Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony/Luncheon
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ken Talbot attended the meeting to talk about the luncheon at the American Legion following the ceremony.</li><li>2. He said that attendance used to be very good for the luncheon. Over the past few years, the attendance has been very low, he ends up cooking for those that were going to be at the legion regardless of the event.</li><li>3. Jim mentioned that we had not announced the luncheon at the ceremony, so we will be sure to do that this year.</li><li>4. Jim mentioned the luncheon in both his articles for the Town Crier and The Reporter. Kathy will include it the legion's May article for The Reporter.</li><li>5. We will also advertise the luncheon, along with the other Memorial Day weekend events on posters and social media.</li><li>6. LaNon suggested that the American Legion should have a float in the parade and utilize that to advertise. Kathy is looking to get a truck for the Legion Auxiliary.</li><li>7. Adam will follow up with Epic Cars two weeks from Memorial Day to hopefully confirm their participation.</li></ol>

Agenda Topic	
Old Business	Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony/Luncheon
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>8. Jim had confirmations from Ricky Levesque of the Southeast Chapter of the Mass Military Vehicles Collector's Club, he'll have at least 5 vehicles.</li><li>9. Also confirming participation was the Seekonk High School Band, Bristol County Fife &amp; Drum and the Providence Professional Firefighter's Pipe Band and Bill Soule as Grand Marshal, probably riding in a vehicle provided by Steve Howitt...Bill with check on that.</li><li>10. Confirmed ceremony participants include Chaplain Amaral, poet Margie Rieske and Rep. Howitt. Rep. Auchincloss responded back, but has yet to commit.</li><li>11. Jim received the Minutemen group that Rep. Howitt mentioned as a Rehoboth group, awaiting response.</li><li>12. Jim heard from Dr. Whalen regarding SHS sports teams, LaNon had contacted him. He will put it out to all teams.</li><li>13. Per LaNon, Seekonk Animal Control, Fireplace Showcase, Seekonk Tree, Master Gardeners and Dancing Witches are all confirmed.</li><li>14. Kathy will do a rough draft of the parade order.</li><li>15. LaNon volunteered to be an additional admin on the Seekonk Department of Veterans Service's Facebook page.</li></ol>

Agenda Topic	
New Business	Future Meetings
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Kevin is not available to attend the next proposed meeting date of May 10<sup>th</sup>, he suggested May 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li><li>2. Jim and LaNon are not available May 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li><li>3. We discussed alternate dates, but the senior center is not available for meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to cleaning services on those nights.</li><li>4. We will keep the proposed date of May 10<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>5. The last meeting date prior to Memorial Day is May 24<sup>th</sup>.</li></ol>
Topic	Adjournment
Motion made by Adam to adjourn, seconded by Russ and voted unanimously	