

<b>Seekonk Veterans</b>		
4.23.2025	7:00pm	Senior Center Cafe
Meeting called by	Kevin Kugel	
Type of meeting	Seekonk Veterans Council Meeting, Audio #061	
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 &amp; Matt Pezzullo Other: James LaFlame (VSO), Kathy Larivee (Legion Auxiliary) Absent: none</p>	
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>		
Discussion	Meeting minutes for April 2, 2025 approved.	
Action Items	Send to Town Clerk and post on town website	
Deadline	ASAP	
<b>Agenda Topic</b>		
	VSO Updates	

VSO Updates	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Jim's name now appears on the VA's site of accredited NSOs, nearly four months after passing the accreditation exam. He has already received calls from that list, including out of state calls, as towns in Rhode Island don't have VSOs, so he is showing up the closest NSO. He recently had a call from a New York resident, who drills with the RI Army National Guard, to assist with a claim.</li><li>2. Jim just found out that a Seekonk veteran that he had been working with, is now a naturalized US citizen. This USAF vet, originally from the Azores, believed for many years that his service during the Vietnam War had given him citizenship. No paperwork was ever done in that regard. Jim had previously assisted others through the process of becoming a citizen and dealing with the USCIS, but this was the first time with a veteran.</li></ol>

<b>Agenda Topic</b>		
Old Business	Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony & Cookout	
Discussion		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Kevin notified the SPD Deputy Chief regarding the parade route (same as always).</li><li>2. Jim put in the request for the SHS parking lot, he'll follow up with them regarding other events on that day.</li><li>3. Joe will follow up with the assistant principal regarding the message board and a recent recruit for Grand Marshal. Jim requested the senior center board.</li><li>4. Jim sent out a press release to the Report, Sun Chronicle, TV9 and the SPD &amp; SFD Chiefs.</li><li>5. Kathy will continue to update the parade roster.</li><li>6. Kevin will get an answer on the CERT's participation.</li><li>7. Adam reported the Epic Movie Cars has confirmed, still waiting on softball and rec. basketball.</li><li>8. Jim will let Bill George know that the Veterans Council won't be riding in the antique fire truck in order to monitor parade flow.</li><li>9. Kathy received a confirmation from the Seekonk Lions Club (will ride in convertibles).</li><li>10. Jim has confirmation from all of the ceremony participants except for Congressman Auchincloss, which is usually a last minute decision.</li></ol>

<b>Agenda Topic</b>	
Old Business	Holiday Festival
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Adam's Connecticut POC for trees gave him a blunt "no", probably because we are a small order, but there was no explanation.</li><li>2. Russ has a couple of suppliers, the Canadian supplier wants to work with us, but it may rely on tariffs.</li><li>3. Bill would like sponsors to commit early to trees. Russ mentioned that we could try and get that commitment as soon as we have a supplier set and know the price.</li><li>4. Adam suggested that Jim could put something in the Memorial Day program, even though we won't have a set price yet. Joe referred to it as a "save the date" sort of item.</li><li>5. Joe can create a flyer once prices are set.</li></ol>

Agenda Topic	
New Business	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The council discussed ways to use the money being offered by the Friends of the Seekonk Veterans Memorial Park.</li><li>2. We will need new KIA banners within 2-3 years. The sign at the park and the stones at town hall need to be updated to include the Space Force. Jim will check with Mark Drapeau to see where the park sign was purchased.</li><li>3. Bill suggested that the pipe at the Vietnam Veterans Monument could be used to light the monument itself, now that the US Flag is illuminated.</li><li>4. Mo has had further contact with his Purple Heart POC. Signs are now \$52 a piece (not including poles and installation).</li><li>5. The council decided that we should try one more year to conduct the rolling parade on Veterans Day. We just need to step up the advertising and see if we can get veterans committed to participate.</li></ol>
Topic	Adjournment
Motion made by Joe to adjourn, seconded by Mo and voted unanimously	