

<b>Seekonk Veterans</b>		
6.25.2025	7:00pm	Senior Center Cafe
Meeting called by	Kevin Kugel	
Type of meeting	Seekonk Veterans Council Meeting, Audio #063	
Chairman	Kevin Kugel	
Audio/Transcriber	James LaFlame	
Attendees	Committee Members: Kevin Kugel (Chair), William Curtis (Vice Chair), Moises Moniz, Joseph Raez & Matt Pezzullo Other: James LaFlame (VSO), Kathy Larivee (Legion Auxiliary) Absent: Russ Pion & Adam Tumlinson (excused)	
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>		
Discussion	Meeting minutes for May 7, 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 attended the Massachusetts Veterans Services Officers Association's (MVSOA) Summer Conference in Eastham, MA from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>2. His regional association (South) was in charge of training from the conference. There was the usual heavy presence of training from the VA and EOVS.</li><li>3. One of the more interesting presentations was from the CEO of a company that handles the logistics of getting veterans to the outsourced vendors for VA compensation exams.</li><li>4. There were lots of breakout sessions for the more experienced VSOs to attend, as there is always such an influx of new VSOs that need their initial training.</li><li>5. There was lots of drama there as the sitting president of the association ran to get re-elected and was beaten by a VSO from Jim's regional association. The previous president thought there was a coup to remove him from office and was screaming expletives at the Westport VSO as she was leaving the conference. She was successful at getting him removed from the association via vote of the association's executive board.</li></ol>

<b>Agenda Topic</b>		
New Business	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony AAR	
Discussion		<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Kathy suggested that we have an updated list for everyone on the council of all of our Memorial Day POCs, since LaNon has relocated and some of her parade contacts were not sent requests to attend.</li><li>2. Kathy will send Joe an updated spreadsheet, so Joe can create a Google drive folder, so that everyone will be able to access files and add contacts. Kevin suggested that the drive could be used for all of our events and council files, not just Memorial Day.</li><li>3. The events were very well attended, but there is always more we can do in the way of advertising. Joe suggested we make generic lawn signs; i.e. "Memorial Day Parade next Saturday". The signs would be put up that week, so they are good for a week, but can be reused for future years – since there are not any dates on the signs.</li><li>4. Kevin was very happy with the order of march. Mo didn't put any units too close to the entrance to the school parking lot, so vehicles could get in and out of the lot.</li><li>5. The muskets didn't cause too much back up as in past years, because they were placed near the back of the parade...with only vehicles behind them.</li></ol>

<b>Agenda Topic</b>		
New Business	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony AAR (continued)	
Discussion	<p>6. Select Board members that were marching were not too pleased with where they were placed, but Kevin explained to them that the color guard and parade marshal must go first in the parade order.</p> <p>7. Chaplain Amaral served as a fill-in parade marshal, as we did not get a high school student that had enlisted in the military. Kevin plans on meeting with the high school principal at some point, where the grand marshal would be a topic of discussion.</p> <p>8. One of the negatives was that the Epic Movie Cars were a no show. Senator Dooner was also a no show for the ceremony. Jim found out that she attended the ceremony in Raynham, which was completely understandable given the circumstances. The Raynham VSO was severely injured in a motorcycle accident. He faces a very long recovery.</p> <p>9. Mo suggested we always bring the canopy for protection from the rain and the sun for the ceremony.</p>	

Agenda Topic	
Old Business	Holiday Festival
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. We are still haven't locked down a tree vendor for this year's event. Adam's vendor declined without a reason. Russ's vendor is from Canada, they want to work with us, it will depend on tariffs. Bill is still in contact with our previous vendor. He let him know that we were not able to sell all of the trees last year, so we might be reducing the number of trees needed. Mo's neighbor is with Four Town Farms. He will check to see if we can get in on their order.</li><li>2. Bill suggested we get trees that are five feet tall. If trees are too tall, he is concerned with sponsors bringing in ladders to string up lights.</li><li>3. Joe had someone that needed community hours, so he sent him to Jim's office to check all of the light sets. Kevin has a few additional light sets at his house. The plan is to go to 35 trees, so we won't need to purchase more light sets this year to replace sets that are non-operable.</li></ol>
Topic	Adjournment
Motion made by Matt to adjourn, seconded by Mo and voted unanimously	