

Township of Egg Harbor

Veterans Advisory Board

Cardiff VFW Post 8098
3029 Spruce Avenue, EHT

January 27, 2014

MINUTES

Paul Hodson called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

Paul Hodson led the Pledge of Allegiance and members held a moment of silence for the departed.

Roll Call: Dan Clayton – *Absent*
 Milas Cook – Present
 Mike Ebert – Present
 William Hegarty- Present
 Paul Hodson – Present
 Douglas Lundberg, Jr. – Present
 Pat Moschetto – *Absent, excused*
 John Rush – *Absent, excused*

Guests: None.

APPROVALS

‡ Minutes of November 25, 2013

Last meeting minutes were discussed.

- Motion to accept minutes as read: Motion made by Hodson, second Ebert. All present voted- yes.

OLD BUSINESS

‡ Pathway Bricks at Veterans Memorial Park

Member Hodson will continue to look into the possibility of this and any conflicts with Atlantic County Library property.

Alternate locations will be discussed further to ensure best location of the bricks.

Whatever the final location of the bricks, Member Hodson will attempt to include the memorial site as part of possible work planned for the park section in 2014.

‡ Veterans Day Essay Contest 2013

Member Hodson informed that the board received a thank you letter by one of the contest winners.

§ EHT Wounded Servicemember Assistance

Member Hodson informed the board that assistance was found for an injured Township servicemember who required a ramp to be built in order to access his residence for the holiday season.

§ Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) Fraudulent Claim

Member Ebert discussed his findings concerning the claim that the WWP does not/no longer provides the maximum amount possible of raised funds to veterans in need. This claim is important to review because the Township holds an annual fundraiser golf tournament with some proceeds going towards the WWP.

Member Ebert contacted some of the core individuals who had helped the Township set up the first year tournament. They were unable to provide information that would dismiss the claims of a misuse of funds.

Member Ebert stated that in his opinion, the negative response to his inquiry is the limit of what the Board can investigate. As such, the Board should discuss and make judgment on this claim.

- Motion to formally recommend to the golf tournament committee that the WWP be not considered as a beneficiary of funds at the upcoming 2014 tournament:
Motion made by Lundberg, second Ebert. All present voted- yes.

NEW BUSINESS

§ New Member Introduced

Member Hodson introduced Milas Cook as a new member to the Board.

Member Cook inquired to the purpose of the Board. He noted the Board lacked reaching out to assist veterans on an individual basis.

§ Memorial Day 2014

Member Hodson suggested the Board begin to work on Memorial Day preparation.

Member Lundberg will continue to work on honoring the overlooked Vietnam Veteran from the Cardiff section of the Township, U.S. Army SSG James H. Estergren. Current plans are to erect a dedication plaque and to present a Township Proclamation to surviving family members.

Member Lundberg will reach out to the EHTPD color guard on providing a 21 Gun Salute during the Memorial Day ceremony. This will be a new event to the program.

Member Hodson will have Township Secretary Janice Hughes to begin preparing announcements based on last year's information.

§ September 11th Memorial Ceremony for 2014

Member Hodson informed the board that Bargaintown Fire Department has made a request that this years September 11th Memorial Ceremony be held at their newly built memorial which features a piece of the World Trade Center debris.

Members as a whole agreed this was a great idea.

§ 2014 Board Appointments

Member Ebert submitted an inquiry to the Board concerning when elections for Board chairman and secretary will be made, and how long these terms will be. He stated his belief that the term length and responsibilities need to be clear in order to prevent any abuse of the positions.

Member Lundberg stated that because the Board never followed through with establishing the bylaws and procedures that Ebert and he had drafted that no documentation is currently in place to refer to on this matter.

Member Ebert expressed his belief that the Board needs written procedures to refer to for such matters of appointments, positions, and amount of Board seats. He further suggested that Member Lundberg and he again review the drafted bylaws and procedures.

Concerning new membership in general, Member Lundberg expressed his opinion that it is wrong and not beneficial for the Board to have just any interested veteran resident simply assigned to the Board without any notification and approval by current Board members. This belief is based on past difficulties of maintaining membership, invalid veteran status qualifications, and a clear lack of a want to serve without secondary agendas. He further stated his belief that the Board should continue in previous fashion of having an interested veteran first attend board meetings to determine ability and interest to serve, to then allow the Board to review documentation to validate veteran status and residency, of which the Board can then formally request the Township Committee for membership approval.

Member Hodson stated that all interested veterans who would like to serve on the Board may do so if there is an open seat.

Member Cook expressed his full commitment to serving on the Board.

§ Oath of Office

Member Hodson, further acting as Township Committee Liaison and Deputy Mayor, successfully administered the Oath of Office to Cook, Ebert, Hegarty, and Lundberg.

Sworn in members for 2014 signed oath documentation, of which a copy will be supplied to them.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting scheduled for February 24, 2014 at 7:00PM.

Member Hodson noted a chance of not making this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting made at 8:10PM: Motion made by Ebert, second Hodson. All present voted- yes.

Douglas Lundberg, Member
Acting Secretary