

Township of Egg Harbor

Veterans Advisory Board

Cardiff VFW Post 8098
3029 Spruce Avenue, EHT

November 25, 2013

MINUTES

Paul Hodson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

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

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

APPROVALS

§ Minutes of October 28, 2013

Last meeting minutes were discussed.

Motion Moschetto, second Lundberg. 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.

§ Veterans Day Essay Contest

Member Hodson brought up for discussion, and Members thought as a whole that the Veterans Day Essay Contest for 2013 was very successful. Both Alder and Fernwood Middle Schools again had strong participation.

Member Hegarty noted that turnout was larger at the presentation ceremony than previous years.

Open for further discussion is the possibility of including Atlantic Christian School next year. They have opted out of the contest in previous years but want consideration for 2014.

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Member Hodson will work on producing thank you letters for Beth Epstein and the Atlantic County Toys For Kids program for donating the gift card awards.

§ Board Terms

All Members in attendance and up for re-appointment stated their willingness to renew their appointments for another term. Any wishing not to do so may contact Township Secretary Hughes.

NEW BUSINESS

§ Toy For Tots Program

Member Hodson mentioned that the local Toy For Tots, located on the old Lexus car dealer property, is in need of volunteers for the upcoming holiday season. Approximate days of December 15-22 during the daytime. Contact Member Hodson for more information.

§ Veterans Park Beautification

Member Lundberg brought up that the remnants of the defunct BoyScout Troop 177 show no current interest in continuing their beautification of Veterans Park.

Member Lundberg suggested, and the Board approved, that Troop 94 of Egg Harbor Township be considered as a replacement due to their ongoing support of Township Veterans. Member Lundberg will reach out to Troop 94 to gauge their willingness.

Member Hodson mentioned, and Members agreed, that all organizations are always encouraged and welcome to participate.

§ Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) Fraudulent Claim

Member Lundberg brought up for discussion recent claims that the WWP does not/no longer provides the maximum amount possible of raised funds to veterans in need. This claim is deemed important to review because the Township holds an annual fundraiser golf tournament with some proceeds going towards the WWP.

Member Ebert suggested that the Board form a committee to research these claims to prepare for the planning of the 2014 golf tournament fundraiser. All members agreed.

§ New Jersey Drivers License

Member Lundberg informed the board of news that veterans will soon have the option to have their veteran status displayed on their state drivers license. The reasoning behind this is to provide veterans easier access to services.

Members discussed and agreed that this was an excellent idea for those interested. Members also expressed the hope that this would, as an additional benefit, improve

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interactions between police officers and veterans when the circumstances arise. Improvement of those relations has been a state wide initiative for some time now.

§ EHT Wounded Servicemember Assistance

Member Hodson brought to attention that a wounded servicemember will be returning to the Township for the holiday season. Assistance is needed to provide ramped access to the residence.

The Board discussed options to provide this service to include: waiving or expediting the permit (if needed), rental of the ramp, and Atlantic County and Veterans Affairs assistance programs. Ultimately, it was agreed that Atlantic County Service Officer Bob Frolow should be advised so that he can pinpoint the best possible course of action.

§ Veterans Day Appreciation

The Board discussed the various local businesses that provided accommodation to veterans on Veterans Day this year. Consensus was that all forms of thanks is appreciated and participation is encouraged to continue.

§ Memorial Day 2014 Suggestion

Member Lundberg provided information to the board concerning an overlooked Vietnam Veteran from the Cardiff section of the Township, U.S. Army SSG James H. Estergren, who was Killed in Action. Fred Vineyard, Somers Point AMVETS Post 911, found that this soldier is not mentioned on the Township's Memorial.

Member Lundberg suggested that Memorial Day 2014 be dedicated to recognizing Estergren's sacrifice. Vineyard has offered to provide assistance in obtaining a plaque. Member Lundberg reported that family members may still reside in the Township.

Member Lundberg volunteered to head this endeavor as he previously developed the recognition program for WO Thomas Guenther for Memorial Day 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting scheduled for January 27, 2014 at 7:00PM.

Motion Ebert, second Hegarty to adjourn the meeting. All present voted- yes.

Douglas Lundberg, Member
Acting Secretary