



FALMOUTH VETERANS' COUNCIL
TOWN OF FALMOUTH

59 TOWN HALL SQUARE, FALMOUTH, MA. 02540
(508) 495-7450 FAX (508) 495-7451

February 8, 2023

Subject: Veterans' Council Meeting

Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m. - Place: Civil Defense Room

In Attendance: Member Bill Doherty, Member Brian Hodor, Member Ron Nasif, Member Paula Smith, Don Lincoln and Julie Cadogan

Absent: Chair Carissa April, Member Rob Foos and Member Elizabeth Sweeney

Meeting was called to order at 4:03p.m. and Pledge was recited.

Member Smith Chaired the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mike DeMello, a retired Marine and retired Falmouth firefighter from the non-profit Jarheads Motorcycle Club, Cape Cod Chapter, made a presentation to the Council. Mr. DeMello explained that the club raises money to perform charitable work for marines and other veterans with various needs. They also donate money to different charities and participate in Big Nick's ride as well as many others. One of their money-raising events is a meat raffle held each month at the Sandwich Amvets which is open to the public. They want to hold a lunch for veterans at the new Veterans' Center in Falmouth. The club is trying to increase their community connections so they can raise more money to help more veterans. The Council thanked Mr. DeMello for his presentation and discussed some additional connections through veterans' organizations that some of the Council members participate in.

OLD BUSINESS

2. Mission, Policies and Procedures. There was a brief discussion about the Mission of the Council and it was noted that the Selectboard approved the Mission statement. Member Smith requested that Julie upload the newly approved mission statement onto the Veterans' Council town webpage.

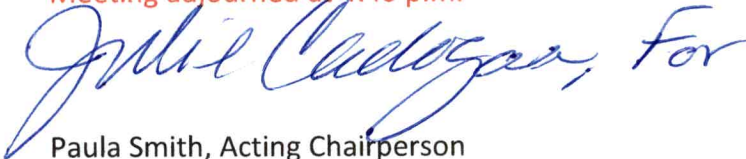
3. Memorial Day Ceremony. There was a brief discussion about Memorial Day but because some members were absent, the remaining members decided to discuss the matter further at the next Council meeting. Member Smith requested that Julie distribute Member Fooks' outline of routine Memorial Day participants and the ceremony agenda. Members were asked to review this in anticipation of the next meeting and expect to confirm that the current participants are appropriate as well as suggesting any modifications to the current agenda which may improve the activity's flow and impact.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Member Doherty explained that the VA wants people to sign up for VA healthcare because their budget depends upon the number of enrollees. They don't want to close clinics because the numbers are inadequate. He also noted that it is a similar situation with the Sandwich Empowerment Center. They are trying to get the word out about their services so more people will sign up which will enable them to continue their services. There was further discussion about local food pantries.

Member Doherty made a motion to adjourn, Member Hodor seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried (4-0).

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Castagna, For". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paula Smith, Acting Chairperson
Falmouth Veterans' Council