



FALMOUTH VETERANS' COUNCIL  
TOWN OF FALMOUTH

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April 12, 2023

Subject: Veterans' Council Meeting

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

In Attendance: Chair Carissa April, Member Bill Doherty, Member Rob Foos, Member Brian Hodor, Member Ron Nasif, Member Paula Smith, Member Elizabeth Sweeney, Selectboard Member Scott Zylinski, Don Lincoln and Julie Cadogan

Absent: None

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. and Pledge was recited.

Chair April recognized Selectboard Member Scott Zylinski's attendance at the meeting as well as his attendance in March at the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Policies and Procedures. Discussion ensued regarding policies and procedures including examples of other towns' Veterans' Councils policies and procedures (specifically Hingham and Hull). Member Foos suggested considering creating subcommittees within the Council to work on designated projects which then could be presented to the Council as a whole. Selectboard member Zylinski suggested the Council consider the Open Meeting Law and check with Town Council to be sure they stay within the regulations of that law if they decide to use subcommittees. Don Lincoln informed the Council there is an existing policy regarding the use of the Library Lawn and it should be included in Council's policies. Member Foos stated that he liked the way the Hingham Veterans' Council Bylaws are written. Members discussed appointing officers such as

Chair and Vice Chair. Member Doherty stated he thought it better not to appoint a regular Vice Chair. He suggested that the Chair, ask any of the Council members to Chair the meeting in their absence.

Member Smith stated she will create a draft set up in a similar fashion to the Hingham model. Member Hodor will create a draft of bullet items 1 through 4 under Council Accountability in the Draft Outline of 'Policy, Procedure Topics, Foundational Docs' document that Member Smith disseminated to the Council members previously. Member Smith will create a draft of bullet items 1 through 4 under Council Membership. The Council agreed to review what Members Smith and Hodor draft at the May meeting and then look at the rest of the items and assign those members to draft.

2. Memorial Day Ceremony. The Council discussed the best way to handle the reading of all of the names of veterans who have passed away in the previous 2 years. There was no one to collect those names for over a year until the Genealogical Society volunteered to take on that responsibility. Discussion regarding interspersing the reading throughout the ceremony as well as other options. Member Sweeney suggested making an announcement at the start of the ceremony informing everyone that the ceremony will be a little longer in order to honor all the veterans who have passed away in the previous 2 years. Thereby informing them of the length of time as well as enabling anyone who wants a seat to take a seat. The Council agreed that would be the best option. Also, the Council agreed there should be a second podium beside the existing podium to facilitate the reading of the names which will be read by Council members Carissa April, Brian Hodor, Elizabeth Sweeney, Paula Smith and Ron Nasiff. Julie will get the rest of the names and create an agenda in time for May's meeting.

Member Sweeney along with Don Lincoln secured the speaker for the ceremony this year at a JOG meeting they attended and shared that with the Council. The speaker is Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Romano, Battalion Commander, Regional Training Institute (RTI) on Joint Base Cape Cod and a high school principal. She explained the types of things the RTI does out on the base.

## OPEN DISCUSSION

The Council discussed term limits for annual and 9 year terms (3 consecutive 3-year terms). Selectboard Member Zylinski suggested the Council go before the Selectboard if they want to make changes to term limits. Julie will get the requested information about term limits and forward it to the Council.

Member Foos made a motion to adjourn, Member Smith seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried (7-0).

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Carissa April, Chairperson  
Falmouth Veterans' Council