



Middle Township Veterans Advisory Board Agenda

Township Hall

33 Mechanic Street

Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

E-Mail: Chairperson - mahardenlozier@aol.com

Phone: 609-602-9946 Fax: 609-536-2617

MEETING DATE/TIME: May 25, 2016, 7:00pm Sharp

LOCATION: Township Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: Welcome

Roll Call

Members Present:

Maureen Harden-Lozier, Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone, Ed Dillio, Joe Griffies, Bill Hawk, Allyn Penkethman, Howard Trout, and Krystel Arana.

FLAG SALUTE

GUEST SPEAKER – None

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES – Individual Objectives Received

OLD BUSINESS

Terms of Members – Follow-Up (Reappointments/Changes) – Any Letters Received?

Krystel Arana:

- *No letters received.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Touch base with the Mayor and ask him to draft a letter addressing the issue.*

Fundraising – Beef and Beer – Friday June 10, 2016 – 6pm – 9pm – Flyers/Tickets

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Created flyers and had tickets printed.*
- *Distributed amongst the board members.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Would like each member of the board to sell at least ten tickets each.*
- *At least 100 people minimum needed for event.*
- *Tickets will be sold at multiple locations.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Suggested there be someone collecting contact information for new members.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Will prepare a table for new memberships.*

Brochure with Consolidated Veteran Information – Received from Fred – Still Retyping

Memorial Day Participation – Follow-Up

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Nick has been selected as the Grand Marshall.*
- *Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor DeVico, and Committeemember Donohue will be placing wreaths as well.*
- *Meet at Middle Township's football field no later than 9am.*
- *Poster of Veteran Advisory Board's goals.*

Follow-Up Regarding Information Event for Families – Fall – Date Choices

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Around October.*
- *Two-hour window.*

Bill Hawk:

- *USAA's website has counselor contact information.*
- *Would like to have a service officer attend.*
- *Military Separation Assessment.*
- *Print handouts of tools and distribute.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Tie the event into Veterans Day in November.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Obama put a program into effect for veterans who are about to have their homes foreclosed.*
- *Mortgage decreased to 2%.*
- *Into effect December 15th.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Any restrictions?*
- *For example type of mortgage.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Closing costs.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Fixed?*

Joe Griffies:

- Yes.
- Has to be primary residence.

Follow-Up Regarding “Flag Stars” Project

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- Bought the bags.

Allyn Penkethman:

- Has about 250 stars.

Joe Griffies:

- Suggested including the board’s website page on the card included in the bag with the star.

Burke Motor Car, Truck & Cycle Show – REMINDER – Saturday, July 9 – Noon-4pm

Retirement of Flag Ceremony – Postponed until the Fall

Any other unfinished Old Business

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss article in Herald – VA Clinic in Cape May

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- Establish new RN positions.

Joe Griffies:

- Veterans need doctors not nurses.
- Has been in contact with senators.
- To talk about problems such as suicides at a future date.

Allyn Penkethman:

- Asked Joe if he agrees that veterans are being categorized when they are labeled as disabled.
- If a veteran can still do his full-time duties, why is he or she being classified as disabled?
- Gave example of a National Guard veteran who is not worried about much because he collects 70% disability.
- Questioned if the VA system has been overloaded.

Joe Griffies:

- If a person gets injured while serving and has it documented, that person is entitled to disability.

- Veterans with post-traumatic stress rated at 70% receive 100% benefits.
- Service members who served during the burn pits will most-likely experience problems ten years from now.

Bill Hawk:

- Agrees with Allyn that the VA has been overloaded.
- "Playing the system."
- Veterans file the same claim at multiple locations.
- Slows the system.

Joe Griffies:

- Opened his claim with the VA in 2009.
- Took three years to file medical record.
- Should have been collecting a pension from the VA for coming home with malaria in 1968.
- Third BBA hearing.
- Declined his claim.
- Opened claim for him without his knowledge in 1968.

Bill Hawk:

- To sum up what Joe is trying to say, if somebody is making money from working and also collecting disability, enjoy it.
- New Jersey Veterans Benefits Guide.
- Lots of valuable information for members to utilize.

Any Other New Business

Ed Dillio:

- Joe and I attended the South Jersey Veterans Conference.
- A couple of good speakers.
- Stephanie Dearden has a program called the New Jersey Youth Challenge Academy.
- Program consists of getting kids who are "troubled" involved in education.
- Extensive program.
- Commit to a 17½ month process.
- One-on-one.
- Help them obtain their GED.
- Firm believer in educating children.
- Program we may want to get involved in.

Joe Griffies:

- Boot camp where they live there.
- Fort Dix.
- Keep them from going to prison.

Bill Hawk:

- *Referred to last meeting when Allyn handed out a packet from the CVAC.*
- *They hosted a Resource and Employment Fair in November at the Wildwood Convention Center.*
- *Medical and homeless assistance amongst many other services.*
- *Would like to do the same thing through the board.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Nobody shows up to those events.*
- *Most vets are retired; they're not looking for work.*
- *Center Philadelphia is where the vets are.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Goal for what we are planning for in the fall is for the residents in Middle Township.*
- *Personalized.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Thought the board's goal was to make the Governing Body aware of the problems veterans are experiencing in Middle Township.*
- *States that they are the ones who are supposed to fix the problems.*
- *Have to increase involvement from Committee members.*
- *Believes more should be done by the board other than hosting events.*
- *Homelessness is a primary issue in Cape May County.*
- *Healthcare should be discussed at every meeting.*
- *10,000 veterans living in Cape May County.*
- *Close to 50,000 veterans in the summer.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Reason for Meet & Greet is to bring veterans forward and encourage them to get involved.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Agrees with both Joe's perspective and Maureen's perspective.*
- *Events have been productive.*
- *Joe is right, our job is to advise the Committee members about the homeless veterans living in the woods.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Requested the problems be identified and they will be brought to the attention of the Governing Body.*

Joe Griffies:

- *The issue of homeless living in the woods has been brought to the attention of the Governing Body and they disregard it as a Freeholder problem.*

Allyn Penkethman:

- *Agrees with Maureen on identifying the issues first.*
- *If we need police escort to go into the woods and find the homeless, then that is what we will do.*

Joe Griffies:

- *The problem is that when the homeless are found, the police arrest them.*
- *It's a good thing when it's 30 degrees out.*
- *It's dangerous because of the hazards of forest fires in the winter.*

Bill Hawk:

- *We're trying to come up with a list of problems and ways to deal with them.*
- *Asked Joe how he would deal with the concerns and issues he is bringing up.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Told Bill to put the word homeless down.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Asked Joe what we were going to do with the homeless once we found them.*

Joe Griffies:

- *That's what the Mayor is for, to solve these problems.*

Allyn Penkthman:

- *Asked Joe if he knew how many homeless were in Middle Township.*

Joe Griffins:

- *Doesn't know.*

Howard Trout:

- *If our job is to advise the Committee Members, what are we going to advise them on?*

Joe Griffies:

- *Homelessness.*
- *It is not our job to tell them how to solve the problem.*

Howard Trout:

- *I think it is.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Organizations who know how to deal with these problems.*
- *For example, Cape Hope.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *We have to know what we are going to do with the homeless once we find them before we go out searching.*
- *Has tried to help homeless in the past who clearly do not want the help.*

Ed Dillio:

- *How about food?*
- *We can at least help them with that.*
- *My church has a food bank.*

Joe Griffies:

- *It is not our job to come up with a solution.*
- *We have to ask the Mayor what he wants us to do with the homeless once we find them.*

Maureen Harden Lazier:

- *Asked Joe to come to the next meeting prepared with a list of problems and then the board can work from there to present it to the Mayor.*

Joe Griffies:

- *Suicides.*
- *Medical Care.*
- *What has the board advised the Mayor on in the past year that we have been established?*
- *Get the committee members involved.*
- *They can call the Freeholders.*
- *We don't shout loud enough to be heard.*
- *Told stories of peoples experiences.*
- *ROTC programs in school.*

Allen Penkethman:

- *ROTC Program being established.*

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

QUESTIONS N/A

ADJOURN 8:45pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystel Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman