



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: August 24, 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, Francey Burke, Ed Dillio, Bill Hawk, Howard Trout, and Krystel Arana.

FLAG SALUTE

GUEST SPEAKER – None

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES – Establish Board Objectives and Goals – 2016

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-Up – Questions and Comments Regarding July's Meeting

No questions or comments were to be had.

Terms of Members – 60% Attendance Requirement in Order to Remain on Board

Krystel Arana:

- *To figure out whether to draft resolution for upcoming meeting designed for attendance requirements or amend existing ordinance.*

Francey Burke:

- *Asked if there are people waiting to be a part of the board.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *People who originally applied.*
- *Planning to put out another press release for any new individuals interested in joining.*

Francey Burke:

- *Questioned how the board would keep track of attendance.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Municipality's calendar year.*
- *New members will finish unexpired terms.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Originally over 30 applicants.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Original applicants contained a significant number of veterans from the Vietnam Era.*
- *Wanted to maintain a balance of service members from different periods of wartime.*
- *More diversity, different perspectives.*

Veterans Court

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Examined a poster displayed outside of municipal court regarding a specialized court system for veterans.*
- *Concludes that New Jersey offers veteran assistance.*
- *State level program.*

Howard Trout:

- *Believes a majority of veterans' court cases are at municipal level reason being due to minor offenses.*
- *Wonders if a more serious matter at County level would be moved down to Municipal level considering the person is a veteran.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Read the poster aloud.*
- *Municipal and Superior Courts of Cape May County Veteran's Assistance Project (VAP).*
- *Voluntary Federal referral service for veterans who come into contact with the court system and who may be in need of veteran services from their local veteran service officer.*
- *The goal is to develop services and support to improve the quality of life for men, women and families who have made sacrifices in the defense of the United States.*
- *Available services can include mental health, counseling, addiction services, legal services and housing.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Atlantic County involved in VAP.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Everything we are looking to accomplish is already established and in effect in the state of New Jersey.*

Howard Trout:

- *Program consists of assistance.*
- *It is a substitute for a Veterans' Court with a Judge dedicated to deal with specialized veteran cases.*

Bill Hawk:

- *It sounds like a program devoted to taking the necessary precautions to make sure the problem does not escalate.*
- *Description of program mentions to contact one's local service officer.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Virginia Tomlin is an accredited Veterans Service Officer, considered as a point of contact.*
- *Referred to the minutes from the previous month's meeting regarding Allyn speaking with Judge Incarvito-Garrabrant.*
- *Did not personally get the opportunity to speak with the judge regarding topic.*
- *Asked the board members present if the topic should be further pursued.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Inquired about preferential treatment.*

Howard Trout:

- *Cases in which veterans are affected with PTSD.*
- *If a veteran receives a DWI, for example, he should still have to pay the consequences at the municipal level but be forced to seek help for the underlying issue.*
- *Veterans are directed to veteran's court based on conditions such as mental issues and medical problems that are causing them to become repeat offenders of minor offenses such as drug and alcohol abuse.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Joe's example of the veterans' court in Philadelphia was depicted as veterans being seen by a judge, diagnosed, and then treated.*
- *Not a "Get Out of Jail Free" card.*
- *Veterans are obligated to seek help through the court system.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Believes we need guidance from a professional who is familiar with the system and the process.*
- *To try to get in contact with Virginia Tomlin regarding any information she would be able to provide the board concerning the issue.*

Howard Trout:

- *Would like to research the legislation surrounding the topic.*
- *Gave the suggestion that a judge who specializes in veteran cases could come to Middle Township once or twice a month to assess problems locally.*
- *Does not believe the Township is flooded with cases for veterans.*

Homelessness of Veterans – Middle Township’s Initiative – Committeeman DeVico

Ed Dillio:

- *Spoke to Committeemember DeVico a little over month ago about utilizing the vacant building next to the Social Security Administration in Rio Grande to house veterans.*
- *Also, spoke to Mayor Clark and Committeemember Donohue.*
- *The building was previously used as an Assisted Living Center known as the Chapin House.*
- *Privately owned.*
- *Forty-two units would be ideal for its purpose.*
- *Open-space program.*
- *Staff a few people including volunteers.*

Krystal Arana:

- *Low-income based.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Stated that the number of homeless veterans is still unknown by the board.*

Francey Burke:

- *If they have a place to go, they might start identifying themselves.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Received paperwork regarding The Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.*
- *Encourage Mayor Clark to take the challenge.*
- *Obtain information first to be able to provide him with an idea and a solution.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Wants the issue tabled until Committeemember DeVico comes to speak and collaborate with the board.*
- *Would appreciate his input directly.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *He stated the summer time is a tough time for him.*
- *Advised to wait until the fall.*

Francey Burke:

- *Asked about the origins of the program.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Federal initiative*

Medical Care for Veterans – Choice Program – Update

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Received an email from Mike Francis who works in Lobiondo's office.*
- *Provided her with two documents clarifying the Choice program.*
- *Personally stated that if anyone is trying to get into the VA and is experiencing an issue to contact him.*
- *He will streamline the process for that person.*
- *To forward the emails received by Mike to the rest of the board members.*
- *County's American Legion meeting had questions regarding the process and why someone should have to go to the Congressman.*
- *There are flaws in the system but they are trying to resolve those issues.*
- *Bringing the issues to the attention of Mike Francis will hopefully help to resolve the issues as well as help the individual*

Veteran Registration in Cape May County – Maureen to Contact Board of Elections – Alternate Sites

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Did not have a chance to look into it.*
- *Intention is not only to have veterans register with the county but also with the healthcare system.*
- *Registering with the VA healthcare system is what is going to get veterans better solutions regarding the topic in Cape May County.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Believes part of the problem is the way information is presented.*
- *More focus on the negative compared to the positive.*
- *Image is tainted.*
- *Results in process of creating a positive impact being delayed.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *There are restrictions.*
- *People with incomes that are considered over the threshold will not be eligible.*
- *That limits the number of eligible veterans in Cape May County.*
- *Feels that Voting sites may not be the best solution for getting veterans to register.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Would like to see continuation of information distribution regarding where and how to register.*

October – Harvest Festival

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *A number of veterans saw our stand with information and did not stop.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *Asked if the veterans were questioned as to why they weren't interested.*

- *If the veterans had been asked why they were not interested, the board could have created a list of causes and could have worked on improving those reasons.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Gave a brief explanation as to why he went into the VA medical healthcare system.*
- *One medication would cost him over \$150 per month if it had not been for the generic form of medication through the VA that costs him less than \$10.*
- *Currently enrolled in Medicare.*
- *Understands why people do not want to enroll with the VA healthcare system.*
- *If he did not have to take the medication that would otherwise cost him \$173 a month, he wouldn't bother with the VA healthcare system.*
- *Mandatorily see a doctor once a year to stay enrolled with the VA healthcare system.*
- *Hassle for everything.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Believes if the Choice Program worked the way it was designed to work without any glitches the veteran would benefit, however not certain of the impact on the VA Healthcare system*
- *VA is trying to maintain their healthcare system but it does not work efficiently everywhere.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Believes every veteran that comes out of the service should be automatically provided with healthcare.*
- *Service members have given up an awful lot especially the younger veterans in the past 15 years.*

Vets Returning from Deployments – How to Find Out Who They Are

Bill Hawk:

- *Mentioned at a previous meeting contacting the recruiters.*
- *Confidential information; will not be shared.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *Gave idea of "piggybacking" on mail.*
- *Send something such as a flyer to the consumers being targeted.*
- *For example, the parents of a son or daughter who will soon be deploying or returning.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Middle Township sent out a map this year that included Municipal Information and Recreational locations containing advertisements.*
- *We could feature an ad on that.*

Howard Trout:

- *We can keep a roster of people who reach out to us.*

Francey Burke:

- *Wanted to know of options the board could use to keep in touch with local service members while they are deployed.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *Keep in touch by mail.*
- *Computers are difficult to get to for some.*

Howard Trout:

- *Attempt to reach out to the recruiters and explain to them what the board's mission is and see if they will make an exception.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *Best bet would be to reach out to the parents rather than the service member.*
- *Parents see what the board is trying to accomplish in a different perspective.*
- *They are the persons proud of their son or daughter.*

Howard Trout:

- *Agrees with Nick, parents are the target.*
- *They are the individuals worrying about their child's condition when they return.*

Bill Hawk:

- *When in the service, he would receive mail and care packages containing treats from organizations such as girl scouts.*
- *Sense of awareness is not what it was anymore.*
- *It is treated more casually nowadays.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Deployments have changed from what they were in the early 1990's. Then units deployed together. Today, individuals can be mobilized by their specialty and not necessarily with their units. Therefore, making it more difficult to know who is deployed.*

Ed Dillio:

- *In the past, the ladies' auxiliary at the American Legion would collect supplies, put them together and mail them to veterans overseas.*
- *Pat Mallone used to be able to acquire the names of deployed individuals.*
- *To talk to Pat and find out how she was able to obtain names of deployed service members.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Another resource is Joe Griffies who is a radio host.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *Unit deployed three times in a five-year span.*
- *Received the third deployment.*
- *Wishes he would have gotten two.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Get in touch with superintendents of schools and see if they can share information regarding people who have joined the service in the last couple of years and start by reaching out to them.*
- *Asked Nick to elaborate on limited deployments.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *Was thinking about joining the Reserves and was told that there is a zero chance of deployments.*
- *Information from Fort Dix.*

Dates for Veterans Information Event for Veteran's and Families

Bill Hawk:

- *Called USAA's Community Affairs Department.*
- *Explained the event the board is planning to host in the fall.*
- *Inquired about a counselor or advisor they could send to the event to speak about their organization.*
- *Would prefer someone experienced in the field and who has credentials.*
- *Organization to get back to him in the future.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *USAA and the Military Officers Association of America are similar types of organizations*
- *If USAA does not have anyone who will attend maybe MOAA does.*
- *Would like County Clerk Rita Fulginiti to be present.*

Howard Trout:

- *Virginia Tomlin.*
- *Robert McGeehan.*
- *Fred Trasatti; drives the free transportation van.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Ask someone from Boots to Business to come.*
- *American Legion sponsors - training for people who were previously in the service and are interested in establishing their own business or growing their businesses.*

Krystal Arana:

- *Veteran Nation is a 30-minute movie we could incorporate into the two-hour window of the event; beginning of event.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Plan to view during the meeting in September.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Asked Nick if there was anything he would find helpful at the event.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *Allowing individuals to express themselves without being identified or classified; "labeled."*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Mental health counselor.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Team leader of the veteran center in Ventnor Kristen Morel.*

Francey Burke:

- *Suggested Karen Matsinger, director of the veterans program at Stockton, attend the event.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Stockton has an office specifically designed to the awareness of veterans.*
- *Veterans are encouraged to be recognized.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Brainstorm title of event for advertisement.*
- *Opening up event to veterans and anyone interested in attending.*
- *Does not want attendance to be limited.*

Nicholas "Nick" Anzelone:

- *"Veterans United," as the title of the event.*
- *"We want to help you," used as a subtitle.*

Krystel Arana:

- *Uncle Sam's picture.*

Bill Hawk:

- *Suggested inviting state politician.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Assemblyman Andrzejczak.*
- *Mayor and Committee to most likely attend.*
- *DAV and other veteran groups.*

Francey Burke:

- *Gave idea for title of event "Forum for You."*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Veterans United Forum for You – We Want to Help You*

Establish Committee for “Flag Star” Project

Ed Dillio:

- *Distribute at Harvest Fest.*

Homelessness – VA.Gov – Conferences and Stand-downs – <http://www.va.gov/homeless/events.asp>

Share with Committeeman DeVico – September 23, 2016 in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Casey McCollum (215)823-5800, Ext. 3680 – Casey.McCollum@va.gov

James Maher (888) 865-8387 – standdownsj@gmail.com

Maureen Harden Lozier:

- *Share information with Committeeman DeVico.*
- *Maybe he would want to attend or send someone.*

Retirement of Flag Ceremony – Postponed Until Possibly Fall

Ed Dillio:

- *Would like the board to attend an event in person to get a feel of what of what the event consists of.*
- *To find out dates of when the DAV holds their retirement of the flag ceremony.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Postponed until next year.*
- *Hands full with current event.*

CVAC – Veterans Board Representation at their Meetings

Ed Dillio:

- *Coast guard getting a new boat.*
- *Grandson going to New Orleans to bring the boat back.*
- *Any vet can be buried at Arlington if he/she wished to be cremated.*
- *Extended hours at the coast guard.*
- *Process of trying to move the outpatient clinic from the coast guard to the hospital starting in September.*

Any Other Unfinished Old Business

VA Mobile Unit – Dates in Future – Bill Hawk to Keep Board Posted

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *To forward email of dates received from the county.*

NEW BUSINESS – PLAN VETERANS EVENT AND RESOURCES – ESTABLISH COMMITTEE

Begin Contacting Potential Speakers

Any Other New Business

Ed Dillio:

- *To send a letter to the hospital representing the board.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *Flag star project would be great to take to the hospital.*

Maureen Harden-Lozier:

- *To bring project supplies to meeting in September for preparation.*
- *Hoping to distribute at the hospital.*
- *Waiting to get designation of veterans from hospital's every day in-patient list.*

Ed Dillio:

- *Provide some kind of service*

Bill Hawk:

- *Duck Donuts does charities and advertises that it is willing to work with local businesses.*
- *Maybe something we could help them with and they could return the favor.*

Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

QUESTIONS N/A

ADJOURN 8:43pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystel Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman