



## Middle Township Veteran's Advisory Board Agenda

Township Hall  
33 Mechanic Street  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

E-Mail: Chairperson  
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Phone: 609-602-9946 Fax: 609-536-2617

MEETING DATE/TIME: November 18, 2015 7:00pm Sharp

LOCATION: Township Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER - Welcome

Members Present:

*Maureen Harden-Lozier, Ed Dillio, Joe Griffies, Bill Hawk, Fred Trasatti, Jr.,  
Howard Trout, and Krystal Arana.*

FLAG SALUTE

UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION – concurrent with other Agenda items

*No new contact information.*

GUEST SPEAKER: No Guest Speaker. We had planned on having Mayor Donohue and Anne Garrison present regarding the American Legion project but they have not completed their presentation.

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Mayor Donohue and Anne Garrison are meeting with the American Legion sometime in the coming weeks ahead.*

DISCUSS AND ESTABLISH BOARD OBJECTIVES

OLD BUSINESS

Update on American Legion Post #198 – any new information

- Contact State American Legion/National American Legion
- Veteran's Organizations in Cape May County

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *What was originally presented was that the County would purchase the building as Open Space, and once purchased the building would be renovated into a museum.*
- *The museum would be a meeting place for the members of the post and have a park outside.*
- *There is also question of blocking off a small portion of Shunpike Road in order to connect the American Legion's corresponding land across the street.*
- *Given that Middle Township recently had a project approved through the Open Space program, it is unlikely that the funding needed to begin our project will come from the same source as originally anticipated.*
- *Currently in need of supplementary funders.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *What was the project previously approved through Open Space?*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *The Avalon Manor Fishing Pier*
- *The township also received a grant to make the pier more fitting for people with disabilities/handicapped accessible.*
- *Bulkhead was also in the process of being redone.*
- *The township paid close to nothing if anything for said project.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *What does that have to do with our American Legion project?*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *For the reason that Middle Township just received a grant and there is more than one entity searching for money and additional funds.*
- *Believed to raise disagreement if Middle Township receives two (2) grants consecutively.*
- *The American Legion is in Jeopardy.*
- *We don't yet have the ability to raise money and without the proper funds we won't have the ability to restore the building and what it stands for.*
- *Many expenses such as liability and maintenance costs.*
- *Few new younger members to the post willing to help.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Concerned with putting all of our eggs in one basket due to small membership.*
- *Until membership is enhanced it's going to be difficult to get anyone to help.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Believes the post will not attain new members if there is no bar put in place.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *There is no room for a bar and the kitchen is small.*

*Fred Trasatti, Jr.:*

- *Agrees with Joe, no canteen would equal a much lower membership.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Find new creative ways to attract more active members.*
- *For example, holding a breakfast for the members.*
- *Is not certain of any other veteran group agreeing to donate money to help repair the building.*
- *Who could we approach for financing a building?*
- *Go fund me pages.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Everybody is asking for money.*
- *Let us make an attempt to reach out to the American Legion State.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Open Space plan is not going to happen?*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *It is unlikely.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Who requested first, the fishing pier or the American Legion?*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *The fishing pier was in progress first.*
- *Original intent for the building was to set up a classroom where kids from high school could be brought in on class trips to learn military protocol.*
- *If the county bought the building, it would give us the ability to offer two (2) \$5,000 scholarships to essay winners who best describe the reason as to why they want to join the armed forces.*
- *We would also still be able to maintain a meeting place for members.*
- *As well as have enough funding to fix the few existing problems of the building (old wiring and plumbing) and be able to maintain it.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Full-time working staff required.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Another problem to take into consideration is what'll happen when board members who agree on the project have to leave due to their terms expiring?*

*Howard Trout:*

- *Zoning Board Variance.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Does not see the probability of closing off the small portion of Shunpike Road in order to connect the property corresponding to the American Legion across the street.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Personally worried about giving the opportunity up.*

*Howard Trout:*

- *If we can't afford to run it, shutter the building and still own the land.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Would like Boys State and Girls State students through the American Legion to receive a scholarship.*

*Howard Trout:*

- *Lots of younger vets in the area due to the Afghanistan war.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *We need to find volunteers to help us with the work.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Would it be a possibility to alter the building to include a bar?*
- *It would be a social mechanism.*

*Fred Trasatti, Jr.:*

- *Does the American Legion allow social members?*
- *Back in the day the Disabled American Veterans wouldn't accept members unless they were disabled and now it is open to all veterans to attract more members.*
- *The real attraction comes from what the post does for its members.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Does anyone know of any organizations that would be willing to help finance this project?*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Home Depot donates money and supplies materials for projects.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *After upcoming American Legion meeting, the rest of the members will be updated with the news.*

- *Awaiting a preliminary report from Anne Garrison on what is expected to happen with the post after she has the chance to speak with the people involved including the Township Engineer and the Township Attorney.*

## Name Tags

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Does anyone have any interest in changing the name tags?*

*All members were in agreement that the name tags did not have to be altered in any way.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *Do we as a board have an address we can have things forwarded to?*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Use the address for Middle Township's Municipal Building and run everything through Krystel.*

## Discuss the distribution of pamphlets in schools

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Hosting a radio show live during the week at the school featuring teachers who are veterans and welcomed a few members to come and speak on the board's behalf.*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *The mayor gave us the ok to distribute the pamphlets.*

## Establish FIRST Veteran's Advisory Board project

- *Schedule a meet and greet?*
- *Veterans Appreciation Day*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Hold the meet and greet off until January and make it our priority then.*
- *We don't have time to plan it right now.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Outside of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church could be a start amongst many other locations.*

## Fundraising

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *No word from the mayor concerning the ability to fundraise as of yet.*

- *Will follow-up once again with the mayor and let the rest of the board members know the result at the next meeting.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *We have to figure out how the money is kept and how it will be handled.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *Put it on hold until after the new regime takes over.*

Contact other Veterans organizations to attend meetings AARP and Middle Township Senior Citizens Meeting in 2016

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Butch would like members of the board to attend the meetings.*
- *Would like to be informed by that person if anyone would be able to accompany her after the first of the year to attend either of those meetings.*

NEXT MEETING DATE

***No meeting in December due to holidays***

***Our next meeting will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup> at Township Hall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room.***

Invite Gerry Thornton to a meeting

*All board members are in agreement.*

Any other unfinished Old Business

*None.*

Terms of Members and New Member

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *According to the Ordinance, we have four (4) terms that expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.*
- *I have no authority but I will recommend to the Mayor that Bill's, Fred's, and Howard's terms, which expire this year, be renewed for another three (3) years.*
- *Resulting in an extension of their terms until 2018 due to the fact that the board is still fairly new, they attend every meeting, and we're in the process of collaboration concerning the American Legion.*
- *We will continue to rotate people through the board come next year.*
- *Would like to move Howard, who is currently an alternate and makes every meeting, to a full member and solicit for an alternate.*

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Don't we have a younger member who served in Iraq joining?*

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Yes, we have to wait for him to be sworn in.*

Brochure with Consolidated Veteran Information

*Maureen Harden-Lozier:*

- *Allyn put an index card of information together for the board to distribute.*
- *If anyone knows of any other information we could feature, please let me know.*
- *Would like for the members to add phone numbers and email addresses in order to put together a brochure with valuable information.*

NEW BUSINESS

- Suggestions for Guest Speakers

*Joe Griffies:*

- *Requested Senator Jeff Van Drew to attend January's meeting.*

*Bill Hawk:*

- *Requested Andrejczak be considered to attend a meeting as well.*
- *Ask them both for help to fund our American Legion project.*

*Ed Dillio:*

- *Contacted Senator Jeff Van Drew a couple of months ago concerning veterans parking.*
- *Unless the person has a specialty plate (Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, etc.) it is up to the municipality if it is honored or not.*
- *North Wildwood does not honor that practice.*

Other new business

*None.*

Next meeting date – Wednesday, January 27, 2016

QUESTIONS

ADJOURN 8:25pm

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Minutes – Krystal Arana

Time Keeper – Allyn Penkethman