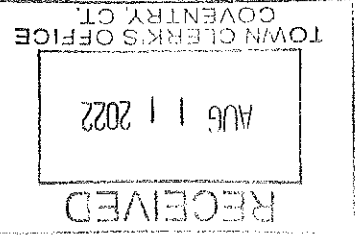


Coventry Veterans Memorial & Events Commission

August 9, 2022 -- Meeting Minutes

Location: Town Hall, #B Conference Room



Attendance: Peter DePaola, Jamie DePaola, Bill Glenney, Rick Nowsch

Meeting called to order: 7:02 p.m.

Secretary's Report: The scheduled meeting for June 14, 2022, was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Peter and Jamie did, however, meet at that time with Annmarie Sundgren, Coventry Municipal Veteran Representative and Administrator of Human Services.

Old Business:

- Local Veteran Resource Booklet and Newsletter: Jamie presented the VRB to the committee and thanked Annmarie for printing them. The trifold was well received by all. Copies will be left at key departments throughout the Town Hall and at the Senior Center.
- Update from meeting with Annmarie Sundgren: Jamie and Peter updated the committee on the meeting with Annmarie, her background, and her goals for supporting veterans in town. She will be an important liaison and partner for the Commission and a big help in reaching out to veterans in the community and invite them to get involved in veteran-related activities and resources.
- CT Vietnam War Memorial: Peter attended last week's Town Council meeting, as suggested, and was informed the funds to repair the monument come via the State's LoCIP grants program. At this time, these funds are allocated for the next five years so other funding options will have to be found. It was also suggested to present the repair proposal to the Town Finance Committee to search for other funding options, and to connect with Congressman Courtney's office. Peter will work both of these options. The commission also discussed a fundraising effort to get private donations to repair the monument.

New Business / Upcoming Events:

- Golfing For Vets: Peter will connect with the Skungamaug Golf Course to get details on this program.
- Veteran Stand-Downs: Jamie discussed the annual veteran stand-downs had been expanded to multiple sites and was a huge success. It offered easy access to more veterans and reduced the drive time for many. This event is planned for Friday September 23rd. Annmarie will work on coordinating a shuttle from the senior center to Norwich on that day for veterans. See attached flyer and please share with your network of veterans.
- Food Share: Peter discussed his recent meeting with Veterans Base Camp and their work to help local veterans with food needs. The Food Share truck is on a strict schedule and cannot linger in any one location and only allows 30-minute stops at each location. The veterans in the Putnam area are elderly, so they are slow, and have difficulty handing out food in the allotted time.
- CT Veterans Day Race: Jamie and Peter presented this year's flyers – one for participants and one for sponsors – for this annual event. All proceeds support CT VSO's that help veterans in need. This is the 7th year for Coventry to host the race, and it benefits CT Veteran Service Organizations who assist needy veterans.

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall #B.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie DePaola
Coventry VMEC Secretary